BRITISH MUSEUM

JOHN BULL

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For meaning of this number see page 765.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

In our issue of February 8th appeared the following paragraph:—

> Some very ugly and dirty work is going on behind the scenes as the result of our recent attacks upon the Official Receiver and the Public Trustee.

I knew what I was saying; and, undaunted by that knowledge and by the warnings which have from time to time reached me as to the danger of the course I was pursuing, I have gone on in my own way, attacking the Government when I felt it deserved attack, and, according to my lights, endeavouring to put into practice the principles upon which it came into power. During the past few weeks all kinds of sinister rumours have been afloat as to the Nemesis awaiting me; and I am now in a position to announce that, taking advantage of the liquidation by the Official Receiver—against whom I recently instituted an action for libel, which I was restrained from continuing on the ground of "privilege."—of an old company with which I was connected, the Government has hit upon the brilliant idea of silencing me, not through the mouths of Ministers whose broken pledges I have exposed, but by the assistance of the Public Prosecutor. It is a bold game, or a cowardly one according to the point of view from which you regard it. But it will be a bad thing for the losing side.

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

We want to know a little more about that million and a half "ear-marked" last year for Old Age Pensions. Let us see exactly what happened. After disposing in various ways of his estimated surplus for 1907–1908, Mr. Asquith stated in his Budget speech that he still had £1,833,000 over. "The odd £333,000 I will keep in hand for the contingencies of the year. As regards the other £1,500,000, I propose to add it to the New Sinking Fund. Why do I do that? . . . I cannot part with this £1,500,000. I shall need the money for the future. I shall need it next year. *In the meantime*, I make the best investment I can . . . There are urgent long-delayed and overdue problems of social reform; and we shall have begun to provide the nucleus of a fund for the relief of necessitous old age. I shall have in hand next year, *free and ear-marked for the purpose*, the £1,500,000 to which I have just referred." Mark the words we have italicised. The money is to be kept in hand for twelve months as "the nucleus of a fund" for Old Age Pensions. "*In the meantime*" it is to be invested, but it is to be kept "*free and ear-marked*" for this special purpose.

In these circumstances, we naturally expected that Mr. Asquith would provide in this year's Budget that the £1,500,000 should be taken out of the New Sinking Fund, and set free for pension purposes. But not a word said Mr. Asquith on the subject. And when we recently questioned him about it, what do you think was the reply? We were told that we were "under a misapprehension. What was described as a nucleus or 'nest-egg' for Old Age Pensions *was not the sum of £1,500,000 added to the New Sinking Fund of last year, but the produce in future years of the taxation which produced that amount in* 1907–8. The sum of £1,500,000 referred to in the question has been applied in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act, 1907, to the redemption of the Debt." Can anything be more at variance with the facts? And yet this answer has been accepted by the faithful rank and file of the Liberal Party without demur. Thus is the great British Public fooled!

In our issue of April 18th, the following paragraph appeared:—

> A reader informs us that amongst the most violent supporters of the Licensing Bill, is the Rev. Mr. Hobson, Vicar of Christ Church, Old Kent Road, and that he took an active part in the Peckham contest. It appears, however, that this same rev. gentleman draws the sum of £200 a year for acting as chaplain to the inmates of the Licensed Victuallers' Asylum, Asylum Road, Peckham. Sounds a little inconsistent, doesn't it?

We now find that our informant was in error, and that Mr. Hobson, instead of being a supporter, is in fact an opponent of the Government Licensing Bill; and further that he took no part in the Peckham election. We willingly give this correction the same prominence as that which was accorded to our original statement.

On Wednesday last, the Lords indulged in their favourite pastime of substituting "may" for "must." They had before them the Land Values (Scotland) Bill, which is a preliminary measure intended to prepare the way for a large and much-needed reform in the taxation of land. The Bill prescribes a new assessment of all land in Scotland, with a view to ascertain the real capital value of each acre in the property market, instead of, as at present, the nominal value as gauged by the rent earned. At present, one man owning property to the value of £1,000 may be rated at £50 a year. A ratepayer next to him, owning property worth as much, but which happens to be unbuilt upon, may be rated at a £5 note, or even less. The Government intend to put an end, or, anyway, to try to put an end, to this unfair assessment. Naturally, the Lords object to make landowners bear a fairer portion of the burdens of rating and taxation. But they have not ventured to reject the Bill outright, and have taken the equally effective, and perhaps safer, way of amending it, by making the Act permissive instead of compulsory.

During the last half-century Parliament has passed many Acts intended to improve the social condition of the people—to benefit them by better housing, fairer rents, fuller opportunities of acquiring land of suitable character at reasonable prices. Many of these Acts are excellent—on paper—nothing can read better; but, practically, they are of little or no value because they are permissive instead of mandatory. Parliament has used the word "may" when it should have said "must." The District Council "may" do this or that; the County Council "may" do this or that; the Local Government Board "may" do this or that; but they, or it, are not directed to do it, and as in many cases neither Council nor Local Government Board is anxious to do it, it is not done, and the Act is a dead letter. So it will be with the Land Values Bill, unless the people of Scotland make it plain beyond all manner of doubt that they intend to have the Bill substantially as it stands. We hope the Government will be firm.

In our issue of May 2nd we ventured to correct some of Mr. Lloyd George's statements about the cultivation of hops, and to express surprise that he should have committed himself to them. But, after all, even Mr. Lloyd George cannot know everything, and it was not astonishing that a man born and bred in Wales, and in maturer life practising there as a lawyer, should trip when talking about a tricky thing like Kentish hops. The odd thing, however, is that Earl Carrington should fall into the same blunders. The President of the Board of Agriculture should know something about land and crops, and, indeed, he poses as a bit of an expert on these subjects. Yet, oddly enough, when he speaks about the hop industry in the House of Lords he is as wide of the mark as his colleague in the Commons. Really, it looks as if he had taken Mr. Lloyd George's "facts" and simply followed them. Replying to Lord Addington, who had moved a resolution "calling the immediate attention" of the Government to the condition of the hop industry, Lord Carrington said:—"Though the acreage (of hops) had been reduced the output and produce are the same because the yield per acre has increased." Now this is Mr. Lloyd George's error, as we showed in our article, and it is surprising that Lord Carrington should repeat it. Can it be that he omitted to read his JOHN BULL of May 2nd? If so, we hope it will be a warning to him not to miss it another time. But as a good many worthy people will argue that what the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the President of the Board of Agriculture say must be correct when hops are in dispute, we had better quote the official figures as given by Lord Carrington's own department. According to the two Ministers, the output and produce are the same because the yield per acre has increased. Now for the figures for the last ten years:—Total produce in cwts.: 1898—356,816; 1899—661,373; 1900—347,894; 1901—649,387; 1902—311,041; 1903—421,068; 1904—282,330; 1905—695,943; 1906—245,688. Yield per acre in cwts.: 1898—7·17; 1899—12·76; 1900—6·78; 1901—12·70; 1902—6·48; 1903—8·78; 1904—5·91; 1905—14·21; 1906—5·26; 1907—8·33. Surely Lord Carrington should be acquainted with these figures and should know that the weather has been the determining factor in regulating the output.

Lord Carrington went on to talk about the cost of cultivation. We all know that hops are amongst the costliest of plants to cultivate, but Lord Carrington told the Lords that "in England hops could not be grown under £50 to £60 per acre." Really, this is hardly less absurd than his statement about the output. Lord Addington told him the cost was £42, Lord Harris confirmed this estimate, and, finally, Lord Carrington had to admit it. But why this exhibition of ignorance on the part of the head of the department whose business it is to tell us all about hops? May we suggest to Cabinet Ministers who discuss matters of national importance that before rising to speak upon them from their seats in Parliament, they should spend a few minutes in getting official figures which would, at least, save them from glaring blunders such as those we have exposed? When are we to have Ministers who will bring both brains and practical experience to their offices, and will lead, instead of follow, the permanent officials of their departments?

The village of Purley is in ferment. The Managers of the Church of England School there have dismissed Mrs. R. B. Moule, who for the past twelve years has been its head mistress. There is no question as to the efficiency of Mrs. Moule's work as a teacher, but her conduct as a woman has been impugned, and, as the champion of morality, the Rev. J. H. D. Matthews, Rector of Purley, and chairman of the school managers, has deemed it his duty to persuade his colleagues to dismiss her. It seems that Mrs. Moule has a daughter who, at the end of July last, was unmarried, but ought not to have been. On Mrs. Moule becoming acquainted with the facts, she moved so promptly that within three days the girl was married, and had left the village with her husband, against whom nothing is alleged save that he followed a practice not very uncommon in the northern portion of the kingdom. In November, the daughter came with her baby to stay with her mother for a few days. Then the fat was in the fire. The Rector heard of the visit and hastened to tell Mrs. Moule that her daughter must go. Mrs. Moule objected. She could not recognise the right of the Rector to ostracise her girl. Mr. Matthews then began to threaten, and insisted that Mrs. Moule should give him a promise that her daughter would go away and not return to the village till he gave permission. Mrs. Moule continuing recalcitrant, the Rector persuaded the school managers to give her notice of dismissal. To give effect to this notice the consent of the Berks Education Committee was necessary. Here there was considerable division of opinion amongst members, as we are glad to be able to record, and a member of the Sub-Committee, Mr. Slade, resigned, rather than be a party to the dismissal. But the Vicar triumphed, and Mrs. Moule is no longer head mistress of the Church of England School at Purley. It is difficult to write in the language of restraint when dealing with a case of this kind. We suppose the Rev. Mr. Matthews was honest in his belief that the morals of the village would be smirched by the head mistress allowing her daughter to visit her. But what a belief!

The attitude of the Government towards gambling, in the matter of raising revenue, is as inexplicable as it is amusing. Not only does the Chancellor of the Exchequer draw his principal revenue from the drink traffic, but he also derives income from a tax upon playing-cards. Recently another anomaly has cropped up. The Postmaster-General is prohibiting the transmission of circulars relating to premium bonds, on the ground that they constitute an infringement of the Lottery Acts, whilst, on the other hand, the Exchequer continues to derive revenue from stamp duties upon such bonds when they are negotiated in this country. Nevertheless, the Government looks with holy horror upon the suggestion that further revenue should be derived by taxing betting and racing. As we have said more than once, what humbugs we are!

Here's an illustration of the practical working of grandmotherly laws. One of our readers, who is engaged as a carman at Whiteley's, was on a recent Thursday quietly taking a cup of tea and devouring our "Bull's Eyes" and "Biscuits" at a coffee house at Raynes Park, Wimbledon, when he was suddenly called upon by an individual, whom he subsequently ascertained to be a detective, to turn out his pockets and submit to a complete search, as the proprietor of the coffee-house was being prosecuted on a charge of allowing betting to take place on the premises. Our friend was naturally indignant, especially when, on proceeding to re-collect his belongings, he found himself half-a-crown short. We are afraid that he has no remedy, inasmuch as the police held a warrant authorising them to raid the place. This sort of thing, however, makes one wonder whether we are still in Free England.

"Our cause was right enough, but there were not enough of us." These were the words used by Mr. Birrell when, some years ago, he lost his seat; and the *Daily News* opines that they are eminently applicable to the recent bye-elections. This reminds us of the story of the man who took his son to the shop of a Jewish clothes dealer to get an overcoat, but who objected that it did not fit, being about three times too large. "No," said the Jew, "it is all right, te coat fit vell enough, but te poy is too slim." Whilst dealing with the *Daily News*, we must also award it an editorial biscuit for its statement apropos the Dundee election that "children sat up till midnight in their night-clothes waiting for the result." How does the editor know that?

How public opinion is created. The following were the headlines relating to the Montrose election. The *Daily News*, which never tells fibs and eschews racing and every other form of vice:—"Mr. Harcourt elected—Swinging majority"; *Daily Express*:—"Liberal vote reduced—Majority falls to 1146"; *Morning Leader*:—"Free Trade triumph at Montrose—Liberal returned by huge majority"; *Daily Chronicle*:—"Mr. Harcourt returned by handsome majority"; *Evening News*:—"Liberals succeed in holding Montrose with decreased advantage"; *The Star*:—"Free Trade—Great victory for Mr. Harcourt." And so with the Shropshire result.

Mrs. Pankhurst and Co., Unlimited, really cannot complain if and when the wild harum-scarum tactics they employ against certain political candidates are turned against themselves. One of the features of the Dundee contest, it will be remembered, was the Malony. Whenever Mr. Churchill appeared to address an open-air meeting this lady popped up with a bell, and started ringing it as if she were out selling muffins in Upper Tooting. Her object, in which she more than once succeeded, was to drown his voice in the din. Regarded as an electioneering notion, this was original; but when Miss Pankhurst and another lady held a suffrage meeting in Wood Green the other night, several of the audience deliberately stole the idea. As soon as a suffragette arose on her high heels, the bells started, the music being made more beautiful in parts when the orchestra was increased by artists who played talented selections on tin whistles and toy trumpets. Finally the voices which might have breathed o'er Eden were extinguished utterly, and the meeting broke up in uproar. This sort of thing is not much to our liking whether practised on one side or the other, but if the suffragettes will not learn to conduct their political campaign with the amenities usual to the sex which is not theirs, they must take their change as they chance to get it. They should comport themselves as ladies if they would be treated as sich.

The new high-life fashions promise to be rather startling, especially now that the most remarkable among them has already been observed in the Park; doubtless it will now be seen at Church Parade in the season. It has already had a show day at Longchamps, however, and is cut Directoire fashion, moulded to the figure, "the tight-fitting skirt open over pink fleshings." Even at Longchamps four policemen had to be called in to keep the crowd off, and a morning paper tells the story that one of them covered the wearer with his cloak because many of the spectators had an undue yearning for a closer peep. A costume of this sort would probably cause so much excitement in a fashionable London church that some of the women and all the men would be disturbed in their devotions. On its appearance we can see the officiating cleric stopping the service—or at any rate changing the text.

We recently wrote to the Chief Constable at Glasgow, asking him to give us the particulars of arrests for drunkenness in that city on the two Sundays previous to the division on the Second Reading of the Licensing Bill. We enclosed a stamped addressed telegraph form for the reply, but received, instead, the following letter:—

> I put your letter of the 29th instant before the Magistrates of the City at their meeting to-day (April 30th), and they consider that the information asked for should not be given.

As the orthodox journalist would say, "Comment is superfluous."

The statement of Mr. John Burns that there are fifty thousand empty houses in London will not surprise anybody whose chief purport on earth is to pay rent. Not only old houses, but modern houses as well, wait in vain for tenants. And thousands of houses are only let for a few months. People take larger houses than they require for themselves in the hope that they will be able to let off, unfurnished. They occupy two or three rooms, and promptly exhibit cards in the front windows announcing "Apartments." But even lodgers do not always come for the hoping. The tenant may pay the first quarter's rent, and perhaps the second. At the third quarter he is off under the moon and the twinkling stars, and when the landlord's agent calls for his money he finds the blinds down and the tenant and the furniture to seek.

In some of the London suburbs you can find street after street of new houses marked "To Let." The truth is, London is not only overbuilt with house property but overbuilt with houses of the wrong sort; and the landlord with his high rent and the local councils with their high rates are driving people of small means into halves of houses and quarters of houses, creating a community of lodgers instead of a community of householders. And the worst of it is that rent and rates tend to go higher instead of lower. In the large towns of the provinces the terrace system is much more common than in London, and there even a man with thirty shillings a week can afford to live in a house of his own. But in the greatest city in the world that consummation is the wildest of wild dreams.

Apropos our article last week on the Budget, several readers think that we have not given the Government sufficient credit for having reduced the National Debt by £18,000,000 in one year, making a total reduction in three years of Liberal government (by next year) of £47,000,000, and thus saving the country nearly £1,250,000 a year in interest. But to save that £1,250,000, we are making a present of £47,000,000 to posterity; and in face of all the social evils clamouring for solution, this gift to generations yet unborn seems to us unduly lavish. There is no reason whatever, as we pointed out last week, why the reduction of the Debt should go on at this rate. The money is well secured, and would be much better spent in lightening the burdens on the backs of the people of to-day than in lightening them on the backs of the people of the day after to-morrow. The man who is starving because he cannot get work can hardly be expected to transport himself into ecstacies of delight on learning that £47,000,000 of current savings are to be applied to ameliorate the lot of his son's great-grandchildren. This sort of finance may appeal to investors in Consols; but it is too dim and distant for those who are hungry. We hope that when Mr. Lloyd George has settled down to work in his new sphere, he will consider posterity rather less and the living people rather more.

We don't like drawing invidious comparisons with our neighbours, but we may be permitted to point out that neither France nor Germany can present so magnificent an example of national prosperity. For lack of funds, France, with all her reputation for thrift, will apparently not be able to get her contributory scheme of pensions passed into law. Germany has a big deficit. Every year she is adding £10,000,000 to her national debt, and on official authority that addition must continue for the next five years at least. But in this Budget of Old England—with all her fiscal obstinacy—not only is £18,000,000 wiped off the Debt in a single year, but £6,000,000 is calmly allocated for non-contributory old-age pensions out of next year's revenue, three and a half millions is knocked off sugar, and not a single tax is added or increased. We don't say, and we don't think, that all this is likely to be done concurrently with a continued reduction of the Debt on anything like the old scale; but that it can be done at all is remarkable. And if the new Chancellor of the Exchequer would only tap the various fresh sources of revenue still open to him within the limits of our present fiscal policy—well, then it, and more, could be done, and done easily, without the necessity for any interference with that policy beyond such occasional and temporary adaptations of it to any given industry as special circumstances may at any special time dictate. Oh, no; we are not becoming "Tariff Reformers." Just wait a bit.

With reference to the effects of restrictive Licensing legislation in Scotland, and to the figures given in our issue of May 2nd relating to the number of arrests for drunkenness in Edinburgh and Glasgow respectively during the years 1904-5-6-7, we find that the result is even more striking when taken in conjunction with the increase of population in those towns. The figures work out roughly as follows:—

	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Glasgow ..	1 in 59	1 in 54	1 in 41	1 in 38
Edinburgh..	1 in 54	1 in 55	1 in 53	1 in 50

At this rate of progression—or retrogression—we shall soon have the whole of the population in the cells.

Here is a letter which seems to call for the attention of Mr. Haldane:—

> During the late Boer War I was a sergeant in the 2nd Kitchener's Fighting Scouts, and Lord Kitchener presented each of us with three head of cattle, and under Colonel Wilson's orders they were all sold in Johannesburg, and we were told we were entitled to £25 per man. The Colonel gave orders for it to be paid out in instalments, and we were paid £10 each, the first instalment; since then we have had no more. There is £15 due to us the last six years. I saw Colonel Wilson in Johannesburg about two years ago, and he told me then that the money would be paid out in a few months. Could you give me any advice how to get it?

We will certainly see what can be done in the matter; for this sort of thing does not tend to popularise the service with the masses. We can't help thinking that someone or other has had that money. *Nous verrons.*

If the Rev. Dr. Aked is to be believed, what he calls "the decline of Christianity" is due to the millionaires, who "fail to provide the funds necessary to make Christianity a success." The proposition is rather startling, coming as it does from a rev. gentleman who went over to New York to administer spiritual comfort to the auriferous Rockefeller. In the far-off days when Christianity was a real thing it did very well without the millionaires. Rome had rich men in plenty, but there were none in Galilee. Christianity was the poor man's religion; it was for the heavy-laden and the oppressed. Modern Christianity, so-called, dines with the rich, and preaches at the poor. Dr. Aked, it is true, every now and again preaches at Rockefeller, and for all we know to the contrary, dines with him also. The poor have had their fill of preaching; they want more to eat. They want amelioration of their social conditions, a practical, helpful sort of Christianity which gives them more happiness while they live instead of promising it to them when they die. They see all around them, professing Christians whose example by no means squares with their precepts; on the one hand waste with wealth, and on the other squalor with all the evils which squalor breeds. It is not that Christianity has failed. The world has never tried it, though here and there it makes a pretence of doing so on Sundays. In a Christian world, there would be nobody rich and nobody poor. We should not string together theological propositions and call them religion. We should live each for all, and all for each.

But in discussing this matter it has always appeared to us that the question is wrongly stated. It should not be, "Is Christianity a failure?" or "Is Christianity declining?" but "Is Christianity possible?" A few years ago an eminent English Bishop was bold enough to state that in these days no Government could run the State on the lines of the Sermon on the Mount. There is not a single civilised Government from one end of the world to the other which dare take the Sermon on the Mount as the basis of its legislative proposals. Fleets, armies, police, law courts, workhouses, gaols—these and a hundred-and-one other national institutions are not only non-Christian, but anti-Christian. To put it into a common term, Christianity is not practical politics. It is an ideal, not to be reached, but to be aimed at. If England were to adopt Christianity according to the Sermon on the Mount, it would be the country of Englishmen no more, certainly not the country of Scotsmen, and our Colonies would be wiped off the map. But in the day when all men become more brotherly than brothers, England will be able to become a Christian State, and every man will be his own perfected law. Then we shall need neither Parliaments nor parsons; neither judges, soldiers, nor policemen. Meanwhile, we may all "profess and call ourselves Christians," if we please; but even so the best of us can be only an inferior imitation.

How many politicians, we wonder, remember the story told of Palmerston and Disraeli in the days when, instead of beer and education, the tea and the paper duties

were the leading questions? It was thought that the Government might suffer defeat on one or other of the proposals then before Parliament. Quoth Disraeli, "Tea and turn out, Palmerston?" to which the latter immediately replied, "No, it will be paper—and station-(a)ry!" Old-age pensions, land reform, and healthy homes would have strengthened the Government in the country; but Licensing and "Education" may lead to the early closing of the establishment from which so much was expected.

Not long ago a gentleman advertised in the *Morning Post* that he wanted a new set of friends because the present ones were always offering him whisky, which he disliked, and because they appeared to be offended if he refused. He must either have very queer friends or a very queer character. However, he now enjoys an opportunity of entering upon a more agreeable sphere, for the following advertisement has appeared:—

A YOUNG American Woman ("A Merry Widow") could introduce the gentleman who does not like the whiskies and soda to a refined circle who are witty and clever, and who only drink White Rock Water with or without their whiskey.—Address White Rock Water, 01876, "Morning Post" Office, Strand, W.C.

We do not know whether this is an insidious puff of a new aperient or of one of those new table waters which, for some occult reason, many people seem to prefer to the ordinary product of the brook, or whether it is only an exhibition of the proverbial artfulness of widows. Eccentric advertisements are rapidly becoming a pastime whose popularity will soon surpass that of Limericks.

What is Your Number?

OUR WEEKLY BALLOT FOR FIFTY HELPERS AT GUINEA APIECE.

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and published on this page.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL bearing any of such numbers we will, upon production of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA, in return for his (or her) using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following claims have been received for issues of MARCH 7TH, 28TH and APRIL 4TH and 11TH:—

FRANK CLARK, 91, North Terrace, Fairlawn Park, Sydenham, S.E. (No. 66857—March 7th.)
Mrs. H. E. JOHNSON, 36, Erveline Road, Forest Hill, S.E. (No. 79713—March 28th.)
A. W. JOHNSON, 8, Cornwall Gardens Mews, Cornwall Gardens, S.W. (No. 24093—March 28th.)
W. S. CLARK, Oxford Street, Swansea. (No. 70009—April 4th.)
W. S. TAYLOR, 437, Mill Street, Toxteth Park, Liverpool. (No. 35945—April 4th.)
FRED HARDY, 13, Hamstead Road, Catford, S.E. (No. 76824—April 11th.)
FRED S. KNIGHT, 4, St. Boniface Gardens, Ventnor (No. 110229—April 11th.)
GEO. S. NOBBS, 18, Fair Street, Stepney, E. (No. 111610—April 11th.)
JOHN FRENCH, 47, Salop Road, Walthamstow. (No. 92345—April 11th.)
HARRY G. SELLARS, Cable Room, Central Telegraph Office, E.C. (No. 23914—April 11th.)
GEO. FAULKNER, 15, Slaithwaite Road, Lewisham, S.E. (No. 83713—April 11th.)

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of APRIL 18th:—

3773; 12639; 14734; 14802; 17987; 20781; 24709; 26818; 30403; 31552; 34484; 37676; 40274; 44462; 50880; 53703; 55075; 56081; 64802; 66719; 68022; 68453; 70626; 73595; 76628; 77862; 78216; 81355; 85291; 88617; 91500; 91903; 93744; 94794; 97645; 104412; 105482; 105970; 107862; 110254; 110759; 111220; 113655; 118620; 120644; 121140; 121737; 124238; 125257; 129353.

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED JUNE 27TH (PUBLISHED JUNE 25TH).

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

For speaking at the session of the Congregational Union of "the drunken verdict of Peckham," when there were but two arrests for drunkenness—both persons being non-electors—upon polling day,
The Rev. T. EYNON DAVIES (of Woodford)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Lord Brassey's yacht 'Sunbeam' arrived at Trieste from Vienna yesterday,"
THE TIMES
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "a woman and her husband strangled all their children, numbering twenty in all, at ages varying from four weeks to twelve months,"
THE VIENNA CORRESPONDENT OF THE *DAILY CHRONICLE*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For informing a correspondent that "the present Crown Prince of Germany was the Duchess Cecile Augustine Marie of Mecklenburg-Schwerin,"
M.A.P.
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that Lord Crewe "is the father of several smart daughters, and a smart young second wife, Lord Rosebery's youngest daughter,"
THE *EVENING NEWS*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For asking a solicitor in court "What is tuberculosis?"
HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS BRADY
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting that a labourer "had served fourteen days for drunkenness on the same day,"
THE *LOUGHBOROUGH ECHO*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following weather report: "Harrogate, fine; SEA calm,"
THE *LIVERPOOL ECHO*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For writing to the Islington Gazette *that "the men could have killed each other and got clear away without the slightest difficulty, except, perhaps, for the large crowd, which might or might not have hindered them,"*
MR. A. C. KEMSLEY (of Highgate)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For referring to Korea as in India,
THE *CHILDREN'S ENCYCLOPÆDIA*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating to the Lowestoft Public Library Committee that, "if they blacked out betting, there were other things that should be blacked out: such, for example, as the picturesque figures of nude ladies in corsets,"
MR. BRADBEER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For offering a cottage for sale, and mentioning as an inducement that "three-thirds can remain if desired,"
AN ADVERTISER IN THE *LUTON REPORTER*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For alluding to Good Friday as "the day preceding Easter Sunday,"
THE *DUNDEE COURIER*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For giving evidence that a deaf and dumb man at Yeovil "made use of awful language,"
POLICE SERGEANT HINDER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For alluding to a disturbance at Lemberg as "an Australian riot,"
THE *CORK EXAMINER*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

THE TERRITORIAL ARMY.

WHY THE SCHEME WILL PROBABLY FAIL.

Mr. Haldane will not have it, but it looks very much as if his scheme for the creation of a Territorial Army will be a failure. He wants over 300,000 men, and he has got just about one-third of that number. It is true that the period for recruiting does not end until June 30th, but the best men, those keen on volunteering, have already joined, and it is unlikely that the numbers will be increased to any material extent during the next six weeks. What has happened is what plain men expected would happen. A majority of the men who belonged to the Volunteer Force decline to belong to the Territorial Force for reasons which are sufficient. Their refusal to enlist was foreseen, but not apparently by Mr. Haldane, whose weakness is that he listens overmuch to his military advisers, who seem to know as much about the sentiments of the classes who made up the old Volunteer Army as Mr. Justice Channell knows about betting terms. We hear a great deal nowadays about the growing degeneracy of the people, but the 250,000 men in the old Volunteer Force showed that there are plenty of lads still willing to give time and holidays to Volunteer military work if only they are treated properly. The old Volunteer Force was not in many ways properly treated. It had grievances which not only irritated the men, but militated against efficiency. That these grievances were not redressed was due to the professional soldiers at the War Office, who from first to last have looked with disfavour upon the Volunteer movement. If these grievances had been dealt with in a generous spirit the old Volunteer Force would, in the opinion of men who know it well, have become a most valuable military instrument of defence. Unfortunately Mr. Haldane turned from the plain path of reform, and upon the advice of the enemies of the force determined to destroy it, and to put in its place the Territorial Army, which was to give the country a defensive force of 300,000 men. It has not given the country that force, nor is it likely to do so.

MR. HALDANE UNDER MILITARY INFLUENCE.

The most suave of men, Mr. Haldane has allowed himself to be made the tool of the professional soldiers who would ride rough shod over civilian opinion. He has sought to eliminate everything that differentiated the Volunteer Force from the Regular Army, and the Volunteers won't have it. The Act was devised by a soldier to be applied to civilians. The old Volunteers were citizen soldiers in the true sense of the word. They were under civil control. They could not be used in a body against strikers in a trade dispute. They did not serve under Military Law, except when brigaded for drill purposes with Regular troops, and this was optional for each individual man. They might absent themselves from drill or camp if they so pleased, and would probably be fined a few shillings which could only be enforced by the Civil Courts. All these things differentiated them, and in most material respects, from the Regular soldiers, but in the Territorial Army their position will be quite different. The differentiation will for all practical purposes have disappeared. They will be "enlisted." The old Volunteer was enrolled. The Territoralist will serve under Military Law. He will be liable to be called out by the authorities in aid of the civil power in case of trade disputes, a provision that has had the effect of keeping away from the force most intelligent Trade Unionists. He cannot claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act. He is a soldier, and a soldier has no rights. Military Law has been described by Sir Chas. Dilke in the House of Commons as "a barbarous code," and Mr. Haldane himself has acknowledged that it requires recasting; but barbarous code though it be, the Secretary of State for War asks 300,000 of his fellow countrymen to serve under it. They will not.

MILITARY LAW NOT NECESSARY.

Why should the members of the Territorial Army be under military law? For our part, we question the necessity of military law in the time of peace, even for the Regulars. For the Volunteers it is an insult. The professional soldier will tell you that it is absolutely necessary so as to get the men accustomed to it for time of war. As well might we be told that they must live upon a biscuit and a half to make them familiar with that ration. What does military law do for the Regular Army? When a man enlists he has to be certified by two respectable citizens as to "good character." Now official figures show that in the four years 1902-5 no fewer than 61,243 lads who had joined the Army voluntarily, and who had been certified as of "good character," were changed into criminals—criminals as interpreted by martial law. 18,753 had deserted, 11,652 were discharged for misconduct, 30,838 were imprisoned by courts martial. What is wanted it not military law but discipline, and discipline can be secured without handing over the volunteer body and soul to the tender mercy of officers. The railway companies, and other great organsiations, are able to maintain discipline without military law. Why not the soldiers?

TOO MUCH TIME REQUIRED.

Then, again, the Bill makes a call upon the citizen in the matter of time to which it is unreasonable to expect him to respond. It may surprise Mr. Haldane's professional advisers to be told that the men who are invited to join the Territorial Army are men who have to obtain a livelihood in the open labour market. They are asked to give up fourteen days of their time to Army training, and if the authorities think fit, and Parliament consents, this fourteen days may be doubled. Not many of their class get more than fourteen days holiday in the whole year. They are to be asked to give up the whole of it to military duty. A great many men are not prepared to do that, even if employers put no obstacles in their way. And despite the resolution of the Stock Exchange, and platonic assurances of various employers of labour, employers as a body are not prepared to consent to their workmen spending fourteen days in camp. If we had conscription, and every man was compelled to serve, well then, of course, every man would serve. But we are a very long way from conscription, and without it large employers of labour could not afford to employ many territorialists, especially large contractors who must enter into competition with other firms for certain contracts of which "specified time" stands out in the specification. As a territorialist a workman would be heavily handicapped as against the man who does not enlist, and the big contractor who employs a large number of territorial soldiers would be heavily handicapped as against the contractor with free labour.

ENEMIES OF THE SCHEME.

It is well known that there are powerful influences at work to wreck Mr. Haldane's scheme. Take Lord Roberts' League—the National Service—for instance. These people ask for universal military service, and they hope to see the Haldane scheme fail, since they think that with its failure the country will be persuaded that there is nothing for it but conscription. Now of the members of this League, which despises the Volunteer, and is working for conscription, we find scores who have obtained seats on the different County Associations that are to control the Territorial Army, or, at any rate, that will be officially connected with Mr. Haldane in carrying out his scheme.

WRONG OFFICERS.

We find again that the officers of this Army, as in the Regular Army, are to be drawn entirely from the classes. Why? One of the things that made the Volunteer Army so popular at the outset was that any man of good character, and keen at his work, might hope to become an officer. Why should the officers of the Territorial Army become the sort of caste that they are in the Regular Army? If you want to make the Army popular you must democratise it. If you want to get all the officers needed for it you must democratise it. Why then in this new Territorial Army introduce the old bad way instead of making it what it should be, an essentially democratic force?

A CHINESE PUZZLE.

JOHN CHINAMAN'S VAIN SEARCH FOR OUR RELIGION.

A VISIT TO ENGLAND.

I am a Chinaman in dire distress mentally, and as you are not a single Englishman, but an embodiment or eponym of the whole English nation, I make bold to address you concerning the subject that troubles me so keenly. I was brought up in the faith of Confucius, and my supreme ambition always was to be a faithful disciple of so noble a teacher. As you doubtless know, that great prophet would speak only about the present life and its multifarious interests. "If you do justice to this life," he said, "you will have no time to trouble your heads about God, death, and immortality." This is all the more significant when we bear in mind that he was a firm believer in God and a spiritual world, while Buddha was an Atheist. When I left China, I was on the verge of middle life, and firmly established in the so-called religion of Confucius. After visiting several European capitals, and becoming more or less acquainted with the leading ideas of the West, as distinguished from those of the East, I eventually found myself in London, the capital of the British Empire. During the first two years of my residence here, I devoted myself to the acquisition of the English language, a task that proved to be extremely difficult. By and bye I began to take an interest in questions of the day. I studied politics, and was puzzled by its many intricacies, and specially by the fact that so many politicians seemed to be men with axes to grind. Your science, too, I discovered to be a most entrancing subject, while most of your general literature filled my soul with unspeakable delight.

THE "ONE ROAD TO HEAVEN."

Before I left China I was always given to understand that the English were a Christian nation, and that when I came to London I would be in a city filled with zealous disciples of Jesus. I had not been here very long, however, before I learned that at least 70 per cent. of the population took no interest whatever in religion. I attended the principal churches again and again, and came to the conclusion that Christianity is a name enjoyed in common by several widely different religions. But the most curious thing of all I noticed was that each of these different religions, or different and contradictory forms of the same religion, vigorously denounced all the others as wicked travesties and shams. I distinctly remember that in one church, with an attendance of four thousand or more, we were assured most dogmatically that the Bible is the infallible Word of God, that Jesus Christ was both God and man in one, that he was supernaturally born, and that on the third day after his death he rose triumphant from the tomb. We were also solemnly told that without faith in the atoning death of this God-man no man living could be saved. "There are fourteen ways to hell," it was declared, "but only one to heaven, and all who do not take this one shall eternally perish." As I listened, and afterwards, I wondered greatly how it was that the countless millions of my own countrymen had never heard of this one road to heaven, and how and why the good God had withheld from them all knowledge of this Divine Saviour.

ANOTHER ROAD.

Not many Sundays after I was at another church crowded with some three thousand people, listening to an eloquent sermon, the object of which was to thoroughly discredit the teaching I have just outlined. I was startled out of my wits. Here were two men, each claiming to be God's spokesman, who did their utmost to demolish each the other. It was highly comical, and profoundly tragical as well. This second Divine oracle informed us that the older teaching, which he styled orthodoxy, was effete, a thing of yesterday, and quite intolerable to the enlightened intelligence of to-day. Put in a nutshell his address came to this: The Bible, though the best book in the world, is a purely human document; God is the sum total of all that is, *and infinitely more*; Jesus was a mere man, who was born of two human parents, like all other men, and who after he died never rose again except in the frenzied imagination of his followers.

IN A FOG.

Well, I was completely flabbergasted. My mind staggered about in a dense fog. For some months I kept clear of all churches, trying hard to solve the mystery in silence and solitude. In both churches it was solemnly declared that we were listening to the very voice of God; and each was confident that it alone could prosper, because God was with it. Reading the New Testament I was led to think that the orthodox Church had the truth, but then the unorthodox, modern Church assured me that the New Testament contains only the opinions of so many good men, and that when examined, these opinions are found to be out of harmony with one another.

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

At first, of course, I was totally ignorant of the history of Christianity. I was not aware of the existence of the two great divisions, known as Catholicism and Protestantism, nor had I the least idea that Protestantism was broken up into innumerable factions or sects. One day, however, I came across a Catholic priest who told me that there was no genuine Church outside Catholicism, Anglicanism and Nonconformity being devoid of any sanction from Heaven. Then I approached a Church of England clergyman, who was quite as certain that it was on his communion alone that the Saviour smiled, the Catholic Church being hopelessly corrupt, and the Nonconformist bodies simply so many "mushroom growths," lacking at once Divine authority and spiritual efficiency. My puzzlement was now greater than ever. How was I to find out what Christianity is? I was still a Confucianist; but as a Confucianist, according to the orthodox Church, I lay under the wrath of God, and would surely go to hell if I died unconverted. If that was true, I was risking the eternal safety of my immortal soul by continuing loyal to Confucianism. What was I to do? Had there been but one Church, and that the orthodox one, Roman or Anglican, I might have been converted and joined it; but when I faced the fact that there were scores, if not hundreds, of different Churches, no two of which were in accord as to what Christianity means, I was utterly unable to come to any intelligent decision. I am still in that same predicament.

I REMAIN A CONFUCIANIST.

Now, since no one can tell me with final authority, what Christianity is, or since almost everyone I meet gives me a different and discordant version of it, can I be reasonably blamed for remaining a Confucianist? At the same time I am not an orthodox Confucianist. Great as my reverence for Confucius is, I cannot obey all his precepts. In one of them he enjoins respect for spirits; but as I am not sure that spirits exist, how can I respect them? There is a part of that same precept, however, which I perfectly observe. "Respect the spirits, *but keep them at a distance.*" I do keep them at a distance, and so they equally do me. Will JOHN BULL tell me what Christianity is, and advise me what to do?

TWO FABLES.

THE FOX AND THE GRAPES.

A Fox, travelling in the country for the health of the townsfolk, observed a fruity bunch of grapes that hung high above his reach. He made several leaps at them, but failed to bring them down.

"Blister the things!" said he, turning away in disgust. "Grape-juice is intoxicating, and I almost forgot that I am a teetotaler."

"Certainly," observed the Sun, cheerfully, "I'll blister them"; and he forthwith proceeded so to do, an easy job for him, seeing that the bunch of grapes was only the painted sign of an inn.

Moral.—Necessity is an able recruiting sergeant for the beneficiaries of the Licensing Bill.

THE FOX AND THE CHEESE.

A Crow that had appropriated a piece of cheese from someone's larder flew into a tree to enjoy her capture. A Fox observing her, endeavoured to open a conversation, in the hope that she might drop her prize. For all his cajolery, the Crow, however, remained silent till the wily Fox, after drawing flattering comparisons between her and Madame Grisi, entreated her to sing for his especial delectation. The Crow, indignant at the comparison which she ignorantly supposed to be an aspersion against the state of her beak through contact with the cheese, opened her mouth in repudiation, and dropped the cheese. The latter, a thoroughbred Gorgonzola, escaped by leaping the garden wall.

(In this version of the fable, it will be observed that the Fox doesn't figure after the cheese has taken the field, he, presumably with the subtlety of his race, recognising that he had met his master.)

Moral!—LIVE AND LET LIVE.

THE "OPEN DOOR" TO THE CIVIL SERVICE.—IV.

THE REMEDY.

Every quack has a remedy for every ill, and our Service readers, having read the preceding articles, will doubtless pooh-pooh the idea of our suggesting a real and effective remedy for the bad and wasteful method of staffing the Civil Service of to-day. It is a curious thing that the greatest opposition to any reform invariably comes at first from the victims of the evil. Many Civil servants have said to us, "How can you alter it? What better method is there? You must have good men for the upper posts," and so on. Many of the younger members feel confident that *their* merit will be recognised, *their* worth rewarded; they will leap the bar, though doubtless their less gifted colleagues will be left behind. There *is* such a thing as promotion to the Upper Division, specially provided for by the Ridley Commission as a reward for merit in the Lower Division. All this we grant you, young friend, but look round your own office and count the gentlemen so promoted. We doubt whether you would need the fingers of even one hand to count them—and when you *have* counted them, ask yourself, *was* it merit or merely influence that "did the trick."

We have shown how the Civil Service is recruited; we have shown the subsequent careers of some of the recruits; we have shown who the private secretary is, and we have shown how he becomes the secretary, the commissioner, the director, the chairman, and what not. We have *not* shown how the abstractor progresses—that may be seen in the Civil Service Commissioners' note to candidates, £55 by £5 to £150—nor have we given anything but a fleeting glance of the prospects of the Second Division clerk of 20 years' service.

That to which we wish to draw the particular attention of the public is the scandalous manner in which public money is thrown at the heads of the young men of the Upper Division, who bring from the universities their "highly cultivated views," but little else of any use.

Surely the time has arrived when this bad and expensive method of bringing in four different classes of men, when only one, if well selected, would do, should be abolished.

Under this system young men are pitchforked into high positions, the duties of which their absolute ignorance (due, it may be granted, to lack of experience only) renders them incapable of performing. There they have to be bolstered up by men who have thrice their service and only one-third their salary, but, according to the Civil Service Commissioners, none of the "highly cultured views of public affairs" necessary to the position of a chief. The inevitable result is muddle and maladministration, jobbery, and discontent.

All men who aspire to posts in the Civil Service should enter by one examination, at one scale of salary, and prove their right to the higher posts, even to the top, by diligence and ability.

Having all the men coming in on an equal footing, the race would then be to the swift, provided favouritism were kept under with a strong hand, and at least the raw article would be obtained at a uniform adequate price. The class distinctions which prevail now, to the detriment of the work, would be swept away with the abolition of the Upper Division, and if that were the only result it would be worth while; for next to the Army, the Civil Service is the home of snobbery; indeed, if Thackeray had lived half-a-century later he would have given at least a chapter to the Civil Service.

The various grades or classes might remain as now, but superior posts should be filled only by promotion from the lower grades. Men would then have some incentive to work their best, and having, as we have to-day, Cabinet Ministers who have worked their way up, who shall say we cannot get good men from the ranks?

HOLIDAYS AMONG THE YORKSHIRE WOLDS.

"Yorkshire Resorts" is the title of an illustrated booklet of 28 pages published by the Midland Railway Company as a *vade mecum* for holiday-makers in that most charming and beautiful part of Yorkshire, the West Riding. The main attractions of Harrogate, Ilkley, Ben Rhydding, Bolton Abbey, and Grassington are set forth in a concise form, with particulars of the cheap ticket arrangements. The cover is a neat combination of photo-lithography, and the booklet, together with a time-table folder, may be obtained, on application, of any of the Midland Railway Company's station-masters or town agents, district superintendents, or the Superintendent of the Line, Derby.

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" Brighton "A"	5/-	10/-	20/-
" Dover "A"	3/6	5/-	10/-
ALL AMERICAN RAILS Per share	Dol 1	Dols 2	Dols 3
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	15 days	30 days	60 days
Anaconda	3/6	5/-	10/-
Cape Copper	3/6	5/-	10/-
Chartered	6d.	1/-	2/-
Goldfields	3/6	3/6	5/-
De Beers	3/6	5/-	10/-
East Rand	3/6	3/6	5/-
Premier Diamond	3/6	5/-	10/-
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Rand Mines	3/6	5/-	10/-
Rio Tinto	5/-	10/-	20/-

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DE BEERS ARE GOING TO £20.

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AMONG THE LAWYERS.

A CASE FOR ENQUIRY.

In our issue of March 14th we directed attention to the case of a man named Bertram Mitchell, a fishmonger's assistant, employed at Kilburn. This man was charged at the Willesden Police Court by Miss Annie Bousfield, of Plympton Avenue, Brondesbury, with indecent exposure, and sentenced by the magistrate, upon the uncorroborated statement of Miss Bousfield, to two months' imprisonment. Mitchell was given an excellent character by his employer, Mr. Broughton. There was not a tittle of evidence to show that if his dress was disarranged it was consciously disarranged, nor the faintest ground for assuming that he wished to annoy Miss Bousfield, and we said that it is perfectly monstrous that a man of good character and record should be sent to gaol upon evidence of misconduct not good enough to hang a cat. Mr. Broughton, who has taken a most creditable interest in the case, and has spared neither time nor money to get justice done to his servant, has now sent us a copy of a local paper, from which we learn that at the Middlesex Quarter Sessions, Mitchell's case came up for hearing on appeal before Sir Ralph Littler, K.C., who with his brother magistrates quashed the conviction. In doing so, Sir Ralph Littler said :—

> "They had given the appeal very careful consideration, and believed Miss Bousfield was convinced of the truth of her story."

We do not doubt it, but that is poor consolation for Mitchell, who was dragged from his house to the police station by two constables, charged with dishonouring conduct, wrongfully convicted, and sent to gaol. We are all of us said to be a little mad upon something or other, and Miss Bousfield seems to be a little mad on the subject of indecent exposure, she having stated to the police that it is not the first time that she has had similar experiences of the alleged offence. If we may offer a word of advice to her, it is to turn her head away when she sees a man at nine o'clock at night with his dress a trifle disarranged, but with no appearance of wishing to insult her or anybody else. As for the man wrongfully convicted, the Rev. H. Champniss points out that "the whole of the costs of the defence (which I understand will be considerable) have been borne by his (Mitchell's) employer, simply in the interest of justice, with the exception of a few friends who since the case has been heard, and were firmly convinced that this is a public matter and should be defended on public grounds, have contributed towards the costs." Mr. Champniss asks the public to see that the costs of the defence are not borne by Mr. Broughton. We shall be happy to be the means of remitting to Mr. Broughton any moneys any of our readers may think fit to entrust to us in reply to Mr. Champniss's appeal.

THE DUTY OF PARLIAMENT.

More than ten years ago the present Lord Chancellor, then Sir Robert Threshie Reid, Radical member for Dumfries, speaking in the House of Commons, described the existing system of of debt collection in words worthy to be recalled and remembered. He said it was

> "nothing in the world but a modified form of the old system of imprisonment for debt, which derived its origin from that old system, and to his mind the time had now come when it should be abolished altogether."

"Hear! Hear!" cried the House of Commons. That was in 1898. Ten years have passed since then, and of these ten years Sir Robert Threshie Reid has been on the woolsack for more than two, but still the system lasts, and year by year the number of men incarcerated for debt continues to increase. And be it remembered that at any time during those ten years the Government of the day might have abolished imprisonment for debt, and made the Act of 1869 what the Parliament of that time intended it to be, with very little difficulty. The only people who would have objected are a small section of the shadier kind of tradesmen. Few respectable firms carrying on their business upon respectable lines would object to the abolition of imprisonment for debt. Under these circumstances Parliamentary opposition would have been slight—nine men out of ten in Parliament are heartily in favour of amending the Law, and yet nothing is done. Men allow the priests to persuade them that the people of the country are violently excited about the religious teaching in schools; the people themselves become half mad with excitement about a Licensing Bill which has no direct concern for most of them. But when it comes to imprisonment for debt, which affects tens of thousands of citizens, nobody seems to trouble, and since nobody troubles, the Government is indifferent. Ours is a curious country.

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THE LICENSING BILL.

The following letter from Canon Knox Little was read at a meeting recently held at Worcester to protest against the Licensing Bill, and is republished by the Brewery Debenture Holders' Committee :—

Canon Knox Little wrote: I am sorry that my Cathedral duties prevent me from being present at your meeting. I should like, however, to join in your protest against the monstrous iniquity of the proposed Licensing Bill. Perhaps, therefore, you will allow me to put two or three points before your meeting, and so before my fellow-countrymen. I can write to you dispassionately, as an independent outsider. I have no brewery shares; I have no connection, direct or indirect, with what is called "The Trade"; I have exerted myself through the long years of a long ministry in fighting against sins—against the sin of intemperance amongst others. I have been successful to some extent, and in the course of my ministry I have induced many young men to be total abstainers; but I have never placed teetotalism before my fellow-man as being the whole Gospel of Christ, or taught men to be self-righteous Pharisees, or canting humbugs, and to think that, if they were total abstainers, they were, therefore, better men than the temperate man, who thought it right to have his glass of wine or his glass of beer.

I therefore support your protest cordially on grounds of commonsense and common honesty. As a matter of commonsense, it is obvious that if this Bill were to pass into law (which God forbid), it would not promote the virtue of temperance, but become an Act for the promotion of secret drinking under State sanction, which (to say the least of it), in the interest of the community, is foolish; and even if it did promote temperance, it ought to be opposed, because it would do so by violating the moral law, by legalised robbery, by "doing evil that good might come," or, anyhow, "that votes might come," which is wrong.

May I venture, sir, as shortly as possible, to touch on one or two points relevant to the question :—

(1) The English people—whichever political party any of them may prefer—are, I am convinced, still lovers of fair play. They are a people also who, however they may be carried away by a passing impulse, soon recover their common-sense. They will, therefore, I am sure, as a body, utterly disapprove of robbery Bills such as the Education Bill, and this Licensing Bill. It certainly is dawning upon them that the one is not to promote education, nor the other to promote temperance. These are vindictive measures, meant to conciliate fanatics and punish opponents, and redeem wild promises recklessly made, and raise money for foolish schemes by high-handed robbery, and "do evil that votes may come." As an old Liberal in politics, I am ashamed of such conduct in a Government calling itself "Liberal." I hope all Liberals will feel the same, and put honesty before party, and give the Government a few more salutary lessons like those of Mid-Devon and Worcester, and Hereford, and Peckham, and that they will see to it that we are honestly governed.

A Radical M.P. is said to have expressed the real purpose of the two robbery Bills rather neatly by the following remark :—"We mean to get the money of the brewers by the help of the Bishops, and then to get the money of the Bishops by the help of the angry brewers." It is a neat little trick! If Englishmen are not terribly changed, I fancy they will have a word to say about it. When they see what such Bills mean, they will see that they are dishonest and unjust.

(2) Now as to the Bill against which this meeting protests, even if it were calculated to promote temperance (which it is not), it would be morally wrong to give it support, because it is based on injustice and dishonesty, and is a robbery Bill. All sorts of sophistry, casuistry, quibbling, declamation, and clamour have been brought into play in the hope of weakening this obvious fact—but in vain. "Think," they say, "of the sad homes and sad scenes in our great cities caused by drunkenness." "Well," I answer, "think of them, and a sad thought it is, but don't inconvenience and punish the temperate working men, who are the vast majority, because of the minority, who are intemperate. Reform, punish, put under restraint, those who will not control themselves, but don't rob and ruin others on the offchance of reforming these; above all, don't rob and ruin on the plea of reforming these, when you really want the money for your own purpose." Then come the apologists of the Government, and say the Government have a right to "take back"—that is the phrase—"the monopoly value," and to take it back by compulsion and without compensation. "The monopoly value," what does that mean? The State gave a permit, renewed again and again. This, the supporters of the Bill say, it can "take back." Well it can, like a big bully, by committing robbery, or

it can, as an honest English Government, by paying full market value. For, consider, those who have trusted to the honesty and good faith of a civilised (not to say Christian) community for years and years, supplied the industry and the capital. If the State takes back its permit without full compensation, it confiscates, it steals, in fact, the industry and the capital of those who trusted it. In fact, it robs them.

That is what this Bill is meant to do. Someone (I forget who) has lately pointed out very appositely that, as the State gives a permit to a licensed victualler, so it gives a permit to a railway company. The permit did not make the railway, so it has not made the victualling trade. Capital and industry made both. If the State, unless it is a robber State, desires to lay its hands on one or the other, then it must pay the full market value. In a vain effort to wriggle through the meshes of these plain facts, there has been some discreditable quibbling about licences not being freehold. The answer is, they have been treated as such. Magistrates, administering the law for the State, have acted on the assumption that they are such. The State, without a word of demur, has allowed men to embark capital in them, on the accepted understanding that they are such. Can anyone, outside the walls of a lunatic asylum, seriously propose, in a civilised country, that a State which has valued, and taxed, and taken death duties on properties as freehold for years, which has made enormous sums of money out of them, can suddenly turn round and confiscate such properties to its own uses without being morally guilty of disgraceful robbery?

And also, how can the country, as a country that loves honesty and fair play, look on unconcerned at the large number of poor and thrifty persons whose "little all" has been placed in brewery shares, and whom this Bill would ruin? I do not believe that Englishmen have so lost their moral sense as to permit such a monstrous iniquity. That the perpetrators of so enormous an injustice were not blind to its consequences is shown by the shady transaction at Portsmouth. They sell a public house for £10,000, with a Bill (so to speak) "in their pocket," which leaves the unhappy purchaser with a property not worth half that sum. Is that honesty? Is that fair dealing? Is that a kind of conduct over which religious people sing hymns of thanksgiving at mass meetings? Is that consistent with English love of fair play? I trow not.

"The time limit," of which we hear so much, may befog the public mind, but it renders the transaction no less dishonest. It does not matter in the slightest degree whether it be fourteen years, or twenty-one, or twenty-five. It is simply a "dodge," neither more nor less, to enable the State, which, by levying taxes, death duties, etc., has treated licensed premises as freeholds, to seize them in a way which may look less indecent, for its own use, and so conceal from the mind of the pietist and faddist that it is committing an act of robbery.

(4) I hope your meeting will remember that the Church of England is in no way a party to this dishonest Bill. Every effort has been made to scare the Church into being an accomplice in this iniquity, but in vain. There may, in so large a body of men, be found some stray Episcopal Pecksniff, but it is not a common thing. Two or three Bishops, whose friends or fads or politics have befogged their moral sense, have said some foolish things. One has "pinned his faith" on a violent teetotal partisan, and so seeks to escape responsibility; another describes a perfectly legitimate investment, resting on the good faith of the State, as "a gambling speculation," while almost shedding an episcopal tear over the sufferers, and so on; but such absurdities merely lower our opinion of the sanity of judgment of such prelates.

Many Bishops have spoken out like men. Allowing for a handful of faddists, I am sure that the vast body of clergy and laity of the Church of England are clear-eyed and sound as to the morality of the question. One poor man (among many) who, with his aged relatives, all three now in declining years, will be ruined if such a Bill ever disgraced the Statute Book, as his hardly earned savings have been placed in brewery shares, writes to me: "If we cannot look to the Church and the State for honesty and justice and care for the thrifty and provident, where are we to look?" Where indeed? The Church, I believe, will stand up for the right in spite of some eccentric prelates.

As for the State, such meetings as yours must see that it does. One might dwell on many points, and even with amusement, on "The Grand Inquisitor" "in plain clothes," who is to watch the working man with his glass of beer, and Archbishops, Bishops, laity, and M.P.'s in the Athenæum and the Reform and the Carlton and (let us hope) in the House of Commons.

But I must not go on. I cordially wish you success. Let us away with cant and hypocrisy and quibbling, and insist that England shall act honestly as between man and man. The honest, plain Englishman will, I am sure, be on the side of the Eighth Commandment; and will not allow the violent seizure of other people's property. He will not be taken in by sophistries and hair splittings, but will say, "If you want a thing and take a thing, pay for it.; if not, you are a thief,"—[ADVT.]

OPEN LETTERS AND POST-CARDS.

To F. De Wend Fenton, Esq.

DEAR FENTON,—Delighted to hear that the Jockey Club has reinstated you to all the privileges of Newmarket Heath. Your "warning off," the severest punishment it was in their power to order, was a travesty of justice, I am quite aware that your horse, Pitch Battle, ran queerly against Lord Gerard's Piari that day at Sandown. But Piari, too, ran queerly. Still, both you and his lordship denied that there had been collusion of any sort between you, and to believe one of you was to believe both. Of the merits of the case I prefer not to speak. But if there was anything irregular—I say *if* there was—well, *you* were not the only one concerned in it. Not you alone could have caused that terrible market convulsion which knocked your horse from favourite, all in a moment, to any price offered. *If* there was anything crooked—again I say *if* there was—others besides yourself—some of them with great names—great in the political and the financial world—were in it too, young men who must have forgotten the duty they owed to their houses and to the honourable traditions of a great sport. But *you* had no great name—no great friends at Court, and so you were sacrificed for the lot. Still, you were wise to drop that action which you commenced against the Jockey Club. It would never have done to have had it all out in Court. You withdrew the action, and the Stewards have withdrawn their ban. And thus ends one of the most unsavoury incidents of Turf history.

I am an Englishman, my dear boy, and I give you the full benefit of all the doubt in the case. But I also give you one word of advice. Remember that these are days when ugly forces are arrayed against all sports; when cranks and purists are ever on the prowl for a stick to beat us with. Don't put a weapon in their bloodless hands. Do all that in you lies to wipe out the shadow of the past, and so act that in years to come—for you are but a boy—all men who once suspected you, shall say that they were wrong. JOHN BULL.

To R. H. B. Marsham, Esq., Bow Street Police Court, London.

MY DEAR CADI,—One of your eccentricities, common also to some other judges and magistrates, is to permit people to come into your court as prosecutors or witnesses and let them write their names and addresses on a piece of paper in order that their identity may not be disclosed to a curious public. A little while ago a woman appeared as prosecutrix in a case of purse stealing, requested that her name should not be disclosed, handed it to you on a slip of paper as the magistrate of the court, and then proceeded to tell her little story.

She had met a man and a woman in a drinking bar, afterwards driven with them in a hansom to Knightsbridge and Whitehall, and then missed her purse. A policeman took up the parable, and deposed that he found the prosecuting lady and the other man and woman fighting in Whitehall. He arrested the two latter, and the woman then threw away the purse. On this evidence you remanded the prisoners for a week. The other day they again appeared in court, and on this occasion the nameless "lady" intimated that she wished to withdraw from the case. The police reported that the two prisoners were of good character, and that when the woman charged with stealing the purse was searched at the police station only half-a-crown was found upon her. You discharged both the prisoners.

So, my dear Cadi, the result was that for seven days a man and woman whose names were disclosed in open court were kept in prison on the allegations of an alleged lady whose name and address you guarded like a secret of the confessional. I am, therefore, unable to say whether she resides in Belgrave Square or Whitechapel, and equally unable to give her an advertisement suitable to her position in life, whatever it may be. But let me ask you this: If a person in the position of a prosecutor is not to be mentioned in all the evening papers, why should not a similar privilege be granted to Bill Sikes, or Fagin, who may also have a position to maintain in their own society? Be good enough to ponder over this question in the quiet of your happy home, and oblige me with a reply at your early convenience. JOHN BULL.

To George Bernard Shaw.

DEAR SIR,—What an amusing fellow you are, to be Shaw. But your latest squib fizzles out somewhat, don't you think? It appears that a firm of American publishers has had the temerity to award you a bonus or prize of £200 for the best short story published by them during the quarter. The said story having been purchased in the ordinary way, and paid for—as you are careful to mention—at a special price, you characterise the free gift of a further amount as an "unspeakable outrage," and also as "monstrous presumption." Well, of course you best know the value of your own work, but permit me to observe that in so openly declining to be overpaid you are not only establishing a dangerous precedent in your profession, but betraying a modesty for which, I own, I should never have given you credit. But the precedent is not likely to be followed, and even your modesty is somewhat discounted by the wide advertisement it has secured you. (Isn't it wonderful how the papers do get hold of these things?) Judging by your letter to the unfortunate profferers of a £200 insult, you even infer the possibility that your story was *not* the best, which, as Euclid says, is absurd. But what a vindictive fellow you are! Not content with flinging the filthy lucre in the offenders' faces, and suggesting it should be used to erect a tombstone to their memory, you actually offer to contribute an epitaph. This is going too far; no offence could merit such severe punishment. And, after all, it was a mistake. The "respensible" readers were away, and the sporting editor, a disciple of the great G. B. S., made the award, and has been discharged. He has lost his berth, by George! And you, what have you gained? An "i" and an "e" between your initials.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. John Edwards, the Gaol Bird, Portland.

EMINENT SIR,—A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of recounting several of your feats of agility while at Portland Prison. Rejoicing at the near termination of your long stay in that secluded hostel, you climbed to the top of a flagstaff—or was it a chimney?—and declined to re-appear on earth until the warders had played on you for about two hours with a hose pipe. The wonder to me was how you stood the rainy weather so long. When you came out of prison you favoured a gentleman of the press with an interview, said the Salvation Army had promised to find you work, and expressed your intention of turning over a new leaf. I remember saying they should employ you to put up sky-signs. What was the sort of job they actually gave you I don't know. Anyhow, you seem to have got one which did not suit your style of thought, and you have now one you are more used to.

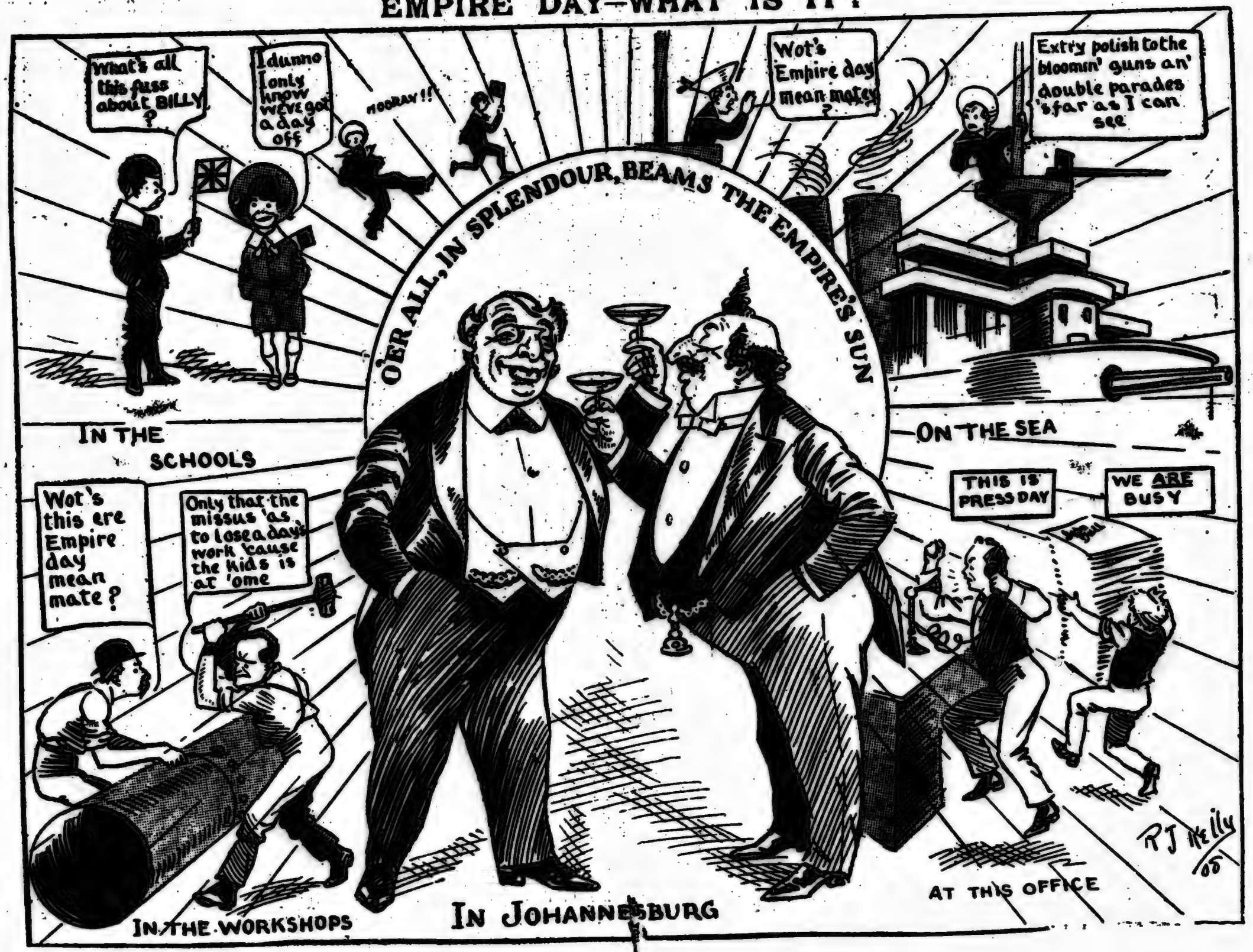
It seems that you joined the festive crowd who went forth to the Great Cup Tie. Desiring to know the time, instead of asking a policeman, you borrowed another gentleman's watch without his permission. As you told the Recorder at Clerkenwell Sessions, "I have been a right-down wrong 'un, a thorough bad lot all my life, but I am always looking on the bright side of things hoping to turn over a fresh leaf and lead a new life." My young friend, hope tells a flattering tale. But don't be downhearted.

Remember that when you come out you can always go back. This is a free country, and Portland is about as free as anything you will find in it. The diet and exercise are also carefully arranged to keep the guests in good health, and I need not point out to you that on Sundays you may go to chapel, where you can be furnished with a clean heart. For three years, adieu. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, M.P.

DEAR CHAPPY,—Pray don't compete with the newspaper tipsters. As you should know, it is their province to tip all the winners. Besides, by publicly telling an audience in a luncheon speech at Birmingham that they should back Norman III. for the Derby you are spoiling the market for those who may wish to keep the good thing to themselves. On a platform it is by no means an unprofitable practice to give away a dead certainty, or even a live one, to a working-class audience. Colonel North, I remember, used to do this sometimes at Leeds, and although the prices were "short," his tips were invariably winners. But I imagine that few politicians would care to risk their popularity on the result of a horse race. To give two or three wrong 'uns might upset any candidate's chances during an election. And, believe me, it isn't difficult to pick them out. I've been known to do it myself—although Wargrave *did* come off. JOHN BULL.

EMPIRE DAY—WHAT IS IT?


What's all this fuss about BILLY?
I dunno I only know we've got a day off
HOORAY!!
Wot's Empire day mean mate?
Extry polish to the bloomin' guns an' double parades 'sfar as I can see
O'ER ALL, IN SPLENDOUR, BEAMS THE EMPIRE'S SUN
IN THE SCHOOLS
ON THE SEA
Wot's this ere Empire day mean mate?
Only that the missus 'as to lose a day's work 'cause the kids is at 'ome
THIS IS PRESS DAY
WE ARE BUSY
R J Kelly 08
IN THE WORKSHOPS
IN JOHANNESBURG
AT THIS OFFICE

IN THE CITY.

STEEL TUBE COMBINE.

For some years past the steel tube makers of the United Kingdom have acted in a combination which, at the outset, regulated the prices of products in the home markets, and latterly also controlled quotations in the export markets. In the latter connection business of late has been fixed according to arrangements made with producers in Germany and the United States. Now the Scottish makers are forming themselves into something like a big limited liability company. Already Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds, Ltd., of Glasgow and Birmingham, are a constituted company, and David Richmond, and Wilson and Union Tube Co., Ltd., both of Glasgow, are following suit. It is understood that all the Scotch makers (with the exception of one small house) have agreed to join hands, and in this way it is expected that much money will be saved by getting rid of many independent agencies. The project may have far-reaching consequences, not only for the tube industry, but also for tube consumers. Upon this matter we have received the following communication from a well-informed correspondent:—

> The Tube Association was formed in September, 1905, after a period of very great competition—during which time a large number of manufacturers, however, paid a good dividend—and immediately the prices to consumers were advanced. As, however, raw material (tube strip) also advanced in price, very little can be said upon this subject, except that the selling price of tubes was higher in proportion than the cost of the strip. The lowest price of strip was £6 2s. 6d. per ton, and the highest £7 10s., as per market report, although I think no maker would pay more than £7 5s., as it was easily obtainable at that price. The price of tubes advanced from 80 per cent. discount off the gross list, to 67½ per cent. discount, and tube fittings from 85 per cent. discount to 72½ per cent. discount. The price of strip has now dropped to £6 15s. per ton, but tubes have only been reduced to 70 per cent. discount.
>
> After advancing prices of tubes, the Association then endeavoured, in a degree, to squeeze out the merchant, by inserting a rule to some extent prohibiting contracts with merchants, excepting under unfair conditions to the merchants. Up to this time a merchant could make a contract for, say, £1,000 worth to be delivered as required over a period—usually six or twelve months—to any railway station in Great Britain. The new rule stated that if a merchant wished to make such a contract he was not to receive his merchants' commission to which he had previously been entitled. The only terms upon which he could make a contract and obtain such commission, was for a period only—six or twelve months—and (note the unfairness) in each case he had to give the names of his customers whom he was supplying on such contract, to the tube maker with whom he made the contract, and, if called upon to do so, had to produce his customer's order corresponding with his own to the tube maker. In regard to this, I am in a position to affirm that at several meetings of the Tube Association in Birmingham the question of doing away with merchants altogether was discussed, and this rule was the outcome of such discussion, to get the names of all, or the bulk, of the users in the kingdom, and then to desert the merchants who had got these customers, and do away with merchants' commissions entirely.
>
> It was next agreed that the Scottish merchants and users should pay a higher price than the English, and a certain standard of discount was adopted for Scotland, very much in excess of the English prices.
>
> The German and American makers were next approached, and an International Association was formed, they agreeing to keep out of Great Britain, and prices to other parts of the world were fixed. Thus the factor which had prevented, to some extent, absolutely exorbitant prices being obtained, was removed. The only parties who, at this time, had not come into the arrangement, were the French and Italian makers.
>
> Then in rapid succession we get the Scottish Amalgamation; the French and Italians joining the International Association; and an English Amalgamation (similar to the Scottish) well on the way. Call it amalgamation, if they will, but it is nothing more nor less than a huge Trust, with several millions capital at the back of it.
>
> In regard to the Scottish Amalgamation, the saving in agencies alone is well over £30,000 per year. In wages it will be even a larger item—all lost to the working man. This will be done in this way:—It is proposed for all orders to be sent to a central office and there to be apportioned to the various works. This will mean that where a works formerly had to make several different sizes in a week (there was a consequent changing of rolls, the men being paid on "time" for this), that works will now probably be kept making one size all the time, and changing rolls will be lost to the workmen and gained to the employer to the extent of at least half a day per man per week; or, putting it another way, each works will be able to do with eleven-twelfths of the men they previously employed

THE PROVIDENT CLERKS' AND GENERAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

We have received the following letter from a policy-holder in this Association, and as it raises points which will be of interest to other members of this great organization, we print it in full, adding comment which we hope will satisfy our correspondent that he has no real ground for complaint:

> I should feel greatly obliged if you would give me some explanation of the enormous discrepancy which appears between the surplus and the amount of bonus in the accounts of the Provident Clerks' Life Assurance Association, of which I have been a member for over forty years. I asked this question at the office some time ago, and was told that all particulars would appear in the annual report; but have not been able to find it there. I enclose copy of their own statement, and the last two balance sheets, which I hope will enable you to solve my puzzle. Previous reports I have been unable to obtain.
>
> In comparing the various bonuses it is clear that they have not increased as they should, in proportion to the surplus. Taking the amount midway between 1840 and 1907—that of 1872—I find that in the latter year the surplus of £80,000 gave £1 5s. per cent. bonus. Yet in 1907, when the surplus is more than 300 per cent. more, the bonus, instead of increasing at the same rate comes, out at £1 14s. instead of £3 15s.
>
> Again, in ten years (from 1872 to 1882) when the surplus increased by more than 100 per cent., the addition to the bonus is only 20 per cent.!
>
> I don't understand much about balance sheets, and therefore hope you will kindly try to solve the puzzle for me.

Our correspondent seems to think that the rate of reversionary bonus declared by the office ought to be increased by the same arithmetical ratio as the total surplus, but of course that cannot be the case. The surplus in 1872 was £80,035, and the office divided £71,000 of that surplus among 12,194 policies. The surplus of 1907 was £279,073, and the office are now dividing £250,985 of that surplus among (about) 30,000 policies. The £71,000 represented the actual cost of providing bonuses at the rate of £1 5s. per £100 per annum for the policies then entitled to share, and the £250,985 represents the actual cost of providing bonuses at the rate of £1 14s. per £100 per annum for the policies now entitled to share.

The circumstances of 1872 and 1907 differ in several respects. (1) The mortality table now used by the office is the "O.M." In 1872 it was the "Carlisle." (2) The average age of the lives on the books is much greater now than it was then, so that it costs more to provide a given rate of reversionary bonus, and (3) during the last 20 years this office, like other offices, has had a large quantity of endowment assurance business placed on the books, and the cost of providing bonuses of this class is, of course, heavier than that of providing bonuses payable at death only.

BROMBORO PORT ESTATE, LTD.

This company has been formed with a share capital of £120,000, of which £80,000 is now offered to the public. Also £180,000 Four-and-a-Half Per Cent. Debenture Stock is offered at par. The vendors are Lever Brothers, Ltd., and the object of the company is to acquire and develop the Bromboro Port Estate belonging to the company.

This issue supports our recent criticism of the 1907 report of Lever Brothers, Ltd. We then pointed out how persistently the capital of the company had increased, while the profits were diminishing, and we predicted that further capital would soon be sought. The real object of the present issue appears to be to provide additional working capital for the company.

The value of the security to the debenture holders in this new concern is entirely problematical. It depends on future developments. The present value is probably far below the £180,000 debentures. It is not the security that usually appeals to debenture investors. It is more in the way of a promoting or developing syndicate.

The guarantee of interest on these debentures given by Lever Brothers is a matter of moment to the preference shareholders in Lever Brothers, Ltd., for while the arrangement does not actually place debentures in front of perference shares it does provide an additional tax upon the profits of the business, and this notwithstanding the huge and increasing liabilities to which reference was made in our previous articles.

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SOLICITING CHILDHOOD.

A correspondent sends us various typewritten letters addressed by John B. McKenzie, who describes himself as a stockbroker and dealer, of 23, Rood Lane, E.C., to Miss E. Briggs, of Elm Lodge, Knighton Road, Leicester. Miss Briggs is a child of twelve. The documents addressed to her by the man McKenzie are letters urging her to buy various shares, and promising enormous profits—the usual type of letter from this sort of person. Not content with writing, Mr. McKenzie wires to the child. "She has recently received," writes our correspondent, "about two letters and telegrams per week," and he goes on to say that "it seems to me a scandalous thing that such circulars as these should be sent out broadcast irrespective of the age of the person to whom they are sent." We entirely endorse this opinion, and we commend the matter to the attention of the Postmaster-General—who is so active just now in other directions.

ONE AND ALL SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

We have received the following letter:—

I have read with interest your article in this week's issue *re* the above, and would like to submit to you the following points which I think are of interest:—

Mr. King says that he is convinced that the Association is managed with the strictest integrity, and without any personal aims on the part of those responsible and entirely with a desire to benefit the public. This is not all the public wish to know. They desire to know what benefits the Association can give in return for a subscription of 1s. per month, or to what extent they are likely to be levied upon in order to meet the claims of the Association.

The table of contributions quoted by you is not used by benefit or friendly societies; for instance, centralised societies generally charge all members with an equal subscription of about 10s. per quarter.

The One and All has power under the rules to levy its members as it pleases, and it should be borne in mind that the Association is practically a new concern, and would therefore be composed of young blood. It is a recognised thing that people in old age are more likely to require benefits of a sick club than those in their prime, as the former are more liable to disease, and therefore when the Association has been in existence some years it must of necessity levy its members heavily or previously establish a reserve fund in order to meet the claims of its old members.

It should also be borne in mind that the majority of people who join sickness benefit societies are working men, and one or two heavy levies would be a serious matter, and they would probably be unable to meet them, and would therefore have to relinquish their membership.

Probably the Association is relying upon lapsed membership to create a reserve fund.

I am not aware of any Slate Club which offers its members £1 per week sickness benefit for a contribution of 1s. per month.

FINANCIAL ENQUIRIES.

THE BRITISH UNITED INSURANCE CORPORATION.—W. C. C. (Leytonstone).—We have inquired into your complaint as to the alleged improper treatment of your friend by officials of this company, and we are satisfied that there is no substance in it. The company have never admitted your friend's claim. From evidence before us, they are justified in the position they have taken up, and they appear to have legitimate ground for complaint at the way in which your friend has thought fit to press his claim.

SPARE MOTOR WHEEL AMERICAN COMPANY.—B. (Tredegar).—It would seem from what you say that the broker who gave you the advice to buy was interested in the sale of these shares, and, if so, his action was very questionable. Anyway, we should advise you to sell if you can do so.

MUTUAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT COMPANY.—SCOT (Harrow Road).—We know nothing against it.

THREE SHARES.—H. H. (Wembley).—No. 2 represents an excellent investment, Nos. 1 and 3 of your list less promising ones.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES.—M. O F. (Stratford).—We will look into the matter, and communicate with you in a day or two.

ADDITIONAL CAPITAL.—BUSINESS (Manchester).—It would be impossible for us to answer your question unless you send us all particulars, which we should, of course, treat confidentially.

SAFE INVESTMENT.—M. M. M. (Hatfield).—We daresay it is safe enough, but we never accept the responsibility of advising readers to leave their money with people who offer such very exceptional interest. O. G. (Bristol). You had much better keep your £50 in the Post Office Savings Bank. It is safe there, which is more than it might be if you transferred it as proposed. CAUTIOUS (St. Helens Place).—We should prefer one of the older building societies. There are several of them with long and honourable records and in a financial position that is strong.

TWO FIRMS.—ACA (Leinster Square).—No, we have not received any complaints against either of the firms you mention.

DEPOSITS IN SAVINGS BANKS.—N. G. (Islington).—We do not think there is any way in which you can get beyond the limit. Why not put the surplus in some other bank, which would give you the same interest with practically equal security?

INVESTMENT OF £1,000.—E. N. (Hull).—So far as security goes, you could not make a better selection than you have done, but naturally you want a better return upon your money, and it is obtainable with security that is practically as good. For instance, Bass and Co.'s Cumulative Preference would give you over 4½ per cent., Jay's Cumulative Preference 5 per cent., J. W. Benson's Cumulative Preference 5 per cent., Maple and Co.'s 5½ per cent., Spratt's Patent nearly 6 per cent. All these and many others that might be named represent first-class securities.

ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION.—F. O. C. (Sutton Coldfield).—We see little likelihood of it at present. The competition between the electrical machinery manufacturers is very acute, and the financial position of this company cannot be said to be exceptionally strong.

BUSINESS ADVICE.—R. F. (Willesden).—We do not think your idea would work well. You say you are a tradesman with some pretty stiff fences to negotiate if you are to steer clear of Carey Street, and not being very confident of yourself you want us to give you the name of a solicitor who will advise you with "a sort of fatherly advice how to steer the craft back into smoother waters," which means, we suppose, that you want somebody to put the business on its legs again. A solicitor would hardly meet that want, and constant reference to him would mean a pretty big bill at the end of the year. Cannot you get some sharp, shrewd young man, well up in your particular business, to go in with you?

LIABILITY UPON TRANSACTIONS.—MARGIN (Dunlop).—Probably you would be able to plead the Gaming Act, always, in our opinion, a disgraceful plea.

PROVINCIAL HOMES INVESTMENT COMPANY.—A. V. C. (Stockton).—Not very.

NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION TRUST.—C. J. M. (Plymouth).—We can only repeat what we have said before with respect to Mr. Wm. Taverner and his Old Age Pension Trust. The object is, on the face of it, a most estimable one, deserving of all possible support, but men who appeal to the public for monies, on the promise of certain accruing benefits, ought to make it clear that their scheme is actuarially sound. Now, not only has Mr. Taverner not done this, but the scheme has been before one eminent actuary, substantially in its present form, and he has declared that it is unsound. When Mr. Taverner can show us the opinion of any actuary, whose judgment carries weight in the actuarial world, that his scheme is sound and feasible, we shall be very glad to support it in every possible way. Meantime we cannot do so.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE.—A. Z. (Thetford).—We really must draw the line at giving the addresses of public officials, information that can be found without any difficulty by turning to the ordinary reference books. However, the address of the Public Trustee is Clement's Inn, London, W.C.

INTERNATIONAL WINDOW CLEANING COMPANY.—U. H. Q. (Kennington).—The conditions appear stringent and one-sided, but, after all, there they are, in black and white, and if a canvasser does not like them he need not accept them.

BRITISH HOUSE AND LAND INSURANCE COMPANY.—LANCASHIRE LAD (Prescot).—You should have asked our advice before accepting the agent's proposals. In what way have the promises made been violated?

LOAN OF £200.—G. F. P. (Twickenham).—We regret we can be of no assistance to you in the matter. You ought to have no difficulty in raising the money, provided the friends to whom you refer are substantial persons and willing to guarantee the loan.

INVESTMENT OF £30.—MAJOR (Sittingbourne).—Better keep it in the Savings Bank.

NEW WHEAL LIZA CONSOLS, LIMITED.—J. H. (Gillingham).—The answer is in the negative.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA INSURANCE CORPORATION.—A REGULAR READER (Upton Manor).—We do not think you could go far wrong in buying them.

STATUS OF COMPANY.—H. H. (Broadstairs).—The advertisements explain themselves, and it is for you to judge whether the offers made are likely to be of assistance to you.

AMERICAN EXPLORATION COMPANY.—H. L. S. (Holloway).—We think recovery would be very difficult.

WM. HOLLIS, LIMITED.—JIM CROW (Builth Wells).—We should prefer another selection.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—S. H. (Dorchester).—Yes, we think so.

RELIANCE BANK.—CONSTANT READER (Glasgow).—We should not.

LONDON AND PARIS EXCHANGE.—D. R. (Perth).—The methods of this firm are very different to those of Arnold and Butler. W. A. (Hull).—We have gone into your complaint very carefully, and are satisfied there is no substance in it. You say in your letter to us that the company sold shares you had sent them for security, and did not give you credit for the cash. The account you yourself send us disproves this. The transaction was an unfortunate one for you, but we see nothing in it, as disclosed by your documents, to suggest that you have any real ground of complaint.

TRANSACTION WITH BANK.—J. L. (Liverpool).—We know of no sufficient reason why you should not do business with it.

INDUSTRIAL SCHEME.—E. H. (Bury Street).—Send us the scheme, and we will give you our opinion.

LAW AND INTEGRITY INSURANCE COMPANY.—P. S. M. (Broadhaven).—We should prefer another selection.

PANAMA BONDS.—J. A. S. (Dublin).—We do not recommend it. The price varies very little.

MUTUAL MONEY SOCIETY.—R. B. (Dundee).—The scheme, as sketched in the circular you send us, seems praiseworthy, but we have no information respecting the society.

BELGIAN BI-MONTHLY MONITEUR.—G. B. (East Ham).—It can be obtained from Messrs. Davies and Co., Finch Lane, Cornhill, E.C.

BANKING ACCOUNT.—WAGELSE (Stamford Hill).—We do not think you would run any risk.

CASH REGISTER.—ROYAL PIER (Southend-on-Sea).—We do not see what we can do further in the matter. If you owe the money, you must pay it.

NEW ERA CONSOLIDATED.—H. B. (Amhurst Park).—It is not a cheering document, but the company has still a considerable sum to their credit.

PERUVIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.—J. B. (Holloway).—We will look into the matter.

ONE AND ALL SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT.—S. E. (Greenwich).—We refer you to what we said on this subject on this page in our last issue

FELTHAM'S BANK.—H. P. (Peckham).—We take note of what you say, and are looking into the matter.

H.E. PROPRIETARY.—H. H. (Keighley).—The shares are very speculative, and we see little likelihood of early improvement in the quotation.

CREDIT REFORM ASSOCIATION AND CREDIT INDEX, LIMITED.—EXPOSURE (Manchester).—You have omitted to send us your name and full address.

THE COSMOPOLITAN FINANCIER.—R. M. P. S. (South Shields).—Our advice to you is to keep your money.

MANHATTAN COBALT, LIMITED.—OLD AGE (Manchester).—You were very foolish to put your money into a concern of which you knew nothing, and doubly so when it is an American concern.

T. ARNOLD AND COMPANY.—C. M. (Manchester).—We do not know that there is any connection between those people and Arnold and Butler. As to your transaction with Messrs. T. Arnold and Co., there would certainly seem to have been unjustifiable delay in sending your certificate. We should write to them again, and insist upon an explanation. Let us know what they say, if anything, in reply.

ENDOWMENT POLICY.—M. McB. (Belfast).—It is impossible for us to give you in this column the wording of a policy that would ensure you against all quibbling on the part of a quibbling company.

THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES CORPORATION.—J. M. (Leith).—We will give the matter attention. S. J. T. (Sketty).—The business of the International Securities Syndicate was taken over in November last by the International Securities Corporation, and that corporation is at the present time carrying on the business. H. MacI. (Glasgow).—Write to them again asking for an explanation of the delay, and let us know the result.

PREMIUM BONDS.—W. L. (Grosvenor Square).—They could be disposed of at any time at the market rate. C. A. P. (Sheffield).—If you want to buy Premium Bonds for cash, you should buy from persons who sell at the current market rates, but our advice to you is not to have any dealings in them, and to keep your £20 in the Savings Bank.

INVESTMENT OF £600.—C. M. (Birmingham).—Of your list we prefer Pennsylvania. If anything American can be safely recommended nowadays, these shares ought to be an attractive purchase at their present price.

AMONG THE MUMMERS.

The Cloth and the Drama.

The Cloth and the Drama are becoming quite chummy. Whether it is all because of the work of the Church and Stage Guild—which the Church on the whole has not treated too well—or the Actors Church Union (with which I had a controversy a short time ago), I cannot say. Perhaps it may be merely that the clergy have discovered that the theatre is not a bad place at which to forget their own sermons. Anyway, quite a number of them lately have been saying nice things about the stage and the players; a few of them, of course, have cultivated the Drama for many years back, and two or three of them have gone so far actually as to write plays. Generally when parsons talk about the play, they show that they know less of the subject even than they do of most: they praise the wrong things. For example, that astounding piece of pseudo-religious twaddle and gross sensuality, known as "The Sign of the Cross," sent several curates into public ecstacy, and Hall Caine engineered a boom for one of his worst pieces by inviting the Cloth to see it for nothing.

In Praise of Diana.

However, the vicar of the Church of St. Sepulchre, Holborn, seems to be a discerning as well as an appreciative playgoer. Apparently he has enjoyed himself recently at the Kingsway Theatre, and accordingly, he feels it to be his "duty" (queer thing duty, at times) to "unreservedly commend" Miss Lena Ashwell's performance in "Diana of Dobson's." Moreover, the reverend gentleman considers the play "quite wonderful and pathetically true to life"—I am no authority on dormitories myself, but I accept the clerical testimony—and "a living sermon." Also, he adds that "all our West End friends should go and see it and learn something more of the lives others live." They are excellent sentiments and I endorse them most cordially. I wish all clergymen were as liberal of outlook as the vicar of St. Sepulchre, and I take off my hat to him and likewise bow.

Another "Coincidence."

This mention of "Diana of Dobson's" reminds me that the usual ass has discovered that in some particulars the play of Miss Cecily Hamilton resembles a story by Mr. Frankfort Moore, and has been marshalling the points of resemblance in parallel columns. Other persons on the same level of intelligence have been raising their eyebrows and winking and nudging one another and marvelling at "another coincidence." It is curious how many people there are in this world who cannot bear to see another person successful without feeling an irresistible desire to throw a brick at that other person. Granted that "Diana of Dobson's" is something like Mr. Moore's story, what of it? Is Mr. Moore's story so utterly unlike every other story that had preceded it. I will undertake to find some story, new or old, remarkably like any play at present on the London stage, or any novel of the year. How many tales have been written, how many plays built on the idea of a will destroyed by an interested party; how many of the vulture-like relatives that gather round the rich man's death-bed? Yet these points are the chief points of Mr. A. W. Pinero's latest play, a very masterpiece of social analysis, as ruthless as anything Ibsen ever did and infinitely more true. It is curious that the man on whose personality the plot of "The Thunderbolt" at the St. James's is supposed to work should be a brewer, and that the heroine of "Mrs. Dot" at the Comedy should be a brewer's widow in view of the present licensing agitation.

Pinero and Dickins.

I wonder that someone has not been levelling veiled slanders at Mr. Pinero for plagiarising half a hundred stories, especially some of the most familiar of Dickens'. For as he wrote up the characters of the Mortimores, the canting Temperance reformers who were so anxious to handle the profits that arose from Beer, and sketched out the rivalry of local journals, Mr. Pinero must often have been reminded of Stiggins and Chadband, and Eatanswill. Of course, the inner truth of all this gossip about "plagiarism" and "coincidence" is, as Miss Hamilton very well said in reply to an impertinent question on the point, there are only a few stories in the world, and all plays are variations on them in greater or less degree, and the treatment is what really matters. Miss Hamilton is a young lady with a mission as well as a laudable ambition to make her own living as a dramatist. She wants to abolish the living-in system at the London drapers' shops. So she has invented a scene which enables the playgoer who believes in high art and social reform to see a West End shop staff in its nighties, going to bed. Incidentally this scene has served to attract a lot of people who are not interested either in high art or social reform, but are deeply interested in pretty girls partially attired. These Miss Hamilton hopes to convert into ardent sympathisers. I hope she will do so; I hope in so doing that she will pile up a nice little nest-egg. For she is a clever and deserving young woman. And I trust we shall hear no more nonsense about "coincidences." The world (not to mention the plays of Bernard Shaw) is full of them; I myself detected in "Getting Married" at the Haymarket the direct influence of several editorial paragraphs from John Bull, whilst it reeks of the last returns of the Registrar-General and of a lamentable debate inaugurated years ago by Mrs. Mona Caird.

P.

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THE HURLY BURLY.

BY THEODORE DABLE.

A SOCIETY FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF VERMIN.

I have received a courteous invitation from Mr. A. E. Moore, the Secretary, to render financial support to the Society for the Destruction of Vermin. Mr. Moore explains in violet ink that the Committee feel convinced that I "shall realise that the Society's campaign must necessarily prove invaluable in the field of preventive medicine, and have no hesitation in asking for my support and co-operation." In reply, I have to say that my co-operation is heartily at the service of the Society. Rent, rates, and taxes, however, make it difficult to contribute funds towards the expenses of ridding other people of their vermin. It appears to me that it is the duty of every citizen to suppress all the vermin he does not want, at his own expense, or agitate for throwing it on the rates. In every city and town there should be Turkish baths free to all.

For the enlightenment of ladies and gentlemen better able than myself to indulge in a widespread hygienic philanthropy, I have the honour to state that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is not in any way opposed to the Society for the Destruction of Vermin. On the contrary, the former society regards the latter with a bountiful tolerance which cannot be too highly praised. The president of the Society for the Destruction of Vermin is Sir James Crichton Browne, a gentleman of copious medicinal talents, and he is supported in the vice-chair by Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P., the eminent fiscal reformer, among others; while the central committee consists of a wondrous array of doctors and men of science, including Lord Avebury, the great ant-hunter; Dr. Chalmers Mitchell, who has or had something to do with the Zoo; and Dr. Saleeby, who writes articles for the newspapers.

From the printed circular now before me, it appears that the Society was formed in January of the current year "to organise a national movement for the extermination of rats and other vermin noxious to man"—and I hope to woman also; and that "among the vermin included within the scope of the Society's operations are rats, mice, sparrows, ticks, fleas, mosquitoes, and flies." From this I gather that there are other kinds which the natural delicacy and reserve of the Committee do not permit them to mention for publication, but that persons who intend to become tenants of the older class of houses will be more particularly enlightened on personal application. The Society will not shirk its responsibilities, even if it feels called upon to advise the complete stripping of the wall-paper. I do not doubt that blackbeetles, cockroaches, and earwigs are also within the scope of its operations. Nothing disconcerts a lady more than to find a blackbeetle crawling over her pretty blouse while she is engaged at the piano.

But if sparrows are vermin, what are cats? You pay half-a-crown for a new dahlia or a new chrysanthemum, tend it lovingly, hold at bay aphis and leaf-mining maggot by day and snails and slugs by night; and when the reward of your effort promises to be blooms that would turn the man in the next garden green with envy, a cat appears on the wall, drops on the top of the half-crown's worth—and there you are!

In other respects I am indebted to the Society for a great deal of information. Kindly permit me to quote: "Among other examples may be mentioned enteric fever and cholera, conveyed by the house-fly; various forms of relapsing fever, by ticks and bugs; trichinosis by the rat; and red-water fever and other diseases in cattle by ticks. The striking discovery has recently been made that the house-fly is a principal factor in the dissemination of the epidemic of summer diarrhœa among infants." It would be presumptuous for a mere layman to question any of these things. If the house-fly is as black as it is painted—and I dare say it is from what I have noticed when it has been permitted to take a stroll in the sugar-basin—there seems to be good reason why it should die the death. To this end I purchase from time to time an assortment of flypapers, some sticky and others arsenical, price one penny each. Hitherto I have slain the house-fly because it tickled. Now I shall slay it with greater zest because it is not good for the health.

Admitting my ignorance, I am free to confess that the Committee appear to have a closer acquaintance with fleas than I have, though I have understood generally that they are no catch. "Bubonic plague," they say, "is now known to be conveyed mainly by rats. In most recent outbreaks this disease has been noticed to occur first among the rat population; from these it passes to man by means of fleas, which inoculate him with the germs they have imbibed in feeding on infected rats." This seems to bear out the impression that the flea is of unsettled habits. It jumps from one thing to the other.

Concerning rats, it is a revelation of the Society that there are thirty millions of rats in the United Kingdom; and though I have never met the gentleman who has counted them, I accept the figures without hesitation. The loss through their ravages among corn, meat, poultry, and cereals is estimated at not less than £5,000,000 yearly. On the whole, the Society seems to have claims to public support; and I suggest that the Committee should begin by touching the pockets of the people who are losing that £5,000,000 annually through the rats.

Electricity—the Road to Health.

SUCH IS THE TITLE OF A BOOK JUST PUBLISHED.

This interesting book, which is sent free to anyone asking for it, points out the road to happiness—health. It is a volume of eighty pages, which is brimful of things the true lover of health likes to read. It will give them courage and enlighten them as to the cause and cure of their troubles. It will point out the pitfalls and guide them safely to a future of strength and vitality. It is nicely illustrated. It tells how other people have suffered and how they have cured themselves. It gives the opinions of many noted physicians, and tells of their work. It is free in a plain, sealed envelope to all men and women who are interested in a true health-giver.

This interesting book deals with the relation of health to happiness. It tells how Nervousness, Neurasthenia, Insomnia, Paralysis, Neuralgia, Locomotor Ataxy, Epilepsy, etc., can be cured. It explains successful results in Rhematism, Sciatica, Lumbago, Gout and Bachache. The opinions of well-known medical men are given regarding Dyspepsia, Constipation, Diarrhœa, and Dysentery. Such complaints as Asthma, Cramps, Chilblain, Headache, Bladder Trouble, and female weakness are intelligently dealt with.

The work is not only the most interesting, but the most valuable from a health point of view that has ever been published. It describes the "Ajax" Dry-Cell Body Battery, a scientific appliance that has done more for weak and ailing people than any remedy known. It is a "last resort" treatment in the most obstinate cases. The peculiar construction of the battery, which enables it to generate a strong and continuous current with no charging whatever makes it a most convenient and pleasant treatment. The "Ajax" Battery secured the Diploma for Grand Prix, with Gold Medal from the Medical Section of the International Exhibition. It is also supported by the *Science Siftings'* Certificate of Merit, and has secured many favourable Press endorsements. A postcard or a letter to the British Electric Institute (Dept. 41), 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C., will bring the book at once. All advice is free, and a free test given to all who call.—[ADVT.]

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JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

The "What to Do with our Girls" Exhibition.

It used to be thought at one time that women who have to earn their living are of altogether inferior clay than those fortunate possessors of an inherited income. Up to the present it has been pleasanter for a woman to have employment abroad where she is not subjected to a stare of surprise. They are sane about these things in America, or Germany, or France. But now, thanks to the undaunted courage of the great league of women workers the absurd attitude adopted towards them by our *narrow-minded* countrymen and women is being dropped. People are beginning to realise that a woman who has worth enough to prefer to make herself independent is entitled to something better than contempt. The governess who was formerly cold-shouldered is now one of the family. The girl who goes in for a trade is admired. And it is well that it should be so. Girl babies are born and grow up and must live, and there is not enough money to go all round. This fact acknowledged, the next step is how to make a girl capable of earning a living when she stands no chance of success unless she has a thorough knowledge of some trade or profession. We ask "What shall we do with our boys?" but hitherto the question has not been raised in connection with our girls. The time has come, however, when it must be considered, and when each girl, while still in her teens, should be given a chance of finding out what kind of work she prefers and is fitted for. When she has mastered the art, even if she is not called upon to earn her living, she has at least acquired some useful knowledge, and an occupation for idle hours.

Poultry Farming.

Under Royal Patronage and through the instigation of the "*Girl's Realm* of Good Fellowship" the "What to Do with our Girls" Exhibition has been opened for three weeks at Princes' Skating Club, and is both instructive and interesting. Every imaginable trade or profession by which a girl may make a livelihood, is represented, and in so attractive a manner that there should be no difficulty in making a choice. Among the most interesting exhibits is a Poultry Stall, which is the medium adopted by the exhibition to show how poultry farming may be carried on in an approved and highly satisfactory manner. So successful is the owner that she even exports birds to South Africa and has thousands of chicks under her "supervision." The exhibitor of another stall makes wings for hats and flies for fishing, and supplies "the trade" extensively. There is a stall, belonging to the National Health Society which trains women as sanitary inspectors, and the Dowsing Radiant Heat and Light Treatment, with which is incorporated the School of Training for Electrical Nurses. There is a beauty culture stall, which justifies that that will always be a profession wherein women cannot fail to find employment; and a new departure lies in a "Junon" stall, which exhibits perfumes, face creams and toilet accessories all prepared by women; while for our further adornment the Cawston Ostrich Farm has exhibited magnificent ostrich feathers and boas, the curling and sewing together of which is in the hands of women. A girl may also have a chance of ascertaining the joy of becoming a gardener, of keeping bees, or of rearing pet dogs, or she can learn how a laundry may be profitably started. Women are already driving cabs in Paris, so no doubt the time is not long hence when there will be paid lady chauffeurs. The possibility of this is exploited at Princes'. Poster designing is admittedly a very lucrative employment. That *doyen* of the art, John Hassall, has a delightful exhibit, and notifies us of a school of which he is principal. This surely is a charming profession for any girl with artistic proclivities. Mrs. Constance Vidal, whose sweets refresh the audiences at the Kingsway Theatre, has a very tempting stall arranged with quite the nicest kind of "bonbons" it has been my pleasure to eat in this country. Mrs. Vidal also gives practical demonstrations which are very interesting to the uninitiated, and there is a rifle range where a girl can try for one of the innumerable prizes offered.

The Popularity of the Empire Gown.

The high-waisted effect certainly has caught on this year. It made a bold attempt last season, but only the leaders of fashion adopted the new style, and then almost exclusively for evening use. But this spring all is different. The high waist has conquered absolutely. For my part I am delighted at its triumph, for nothing can be more graceful and picturesque. Perhaps it does not suit the broader, stronger build of English figure quite so well as it does the slender, sylph-like French woman, but we need not shrink from it on that account. It is a style of garment that suits the more severe and classically perfect type of English facial beauty to perfection. Of course an entirely new make of corset is worn with garments of this description, but a good many girls of slender build find that they can dispense with a corset altogether, and the loss of the busks and whalebones never be missed. Since corsets are not altogether necessary, and petticoats are quite out of place, it is to be hoped that kind fate is going to give us a sultry summer.

SOUND FINANCIAL METHODS.

THE TRIUMPH OVER PREJUDICES. VICTORY OF REFORM.

There are few studies that afford greater pleasure or give greater satisfaction to the studiously inclined nature than a careful examination of the rise and fall of ancient nations, or the gradual decay of old traditions and the absorption or extinction of old institutions. The student, if he so desires, can trace how from these past great traditions a new code of ideas has gradually evolved, while from the structures of old historic houses new enterprises more fitted to deal with the altered conditions of time have been brought into being.

THE BATTLE WITH PREJUDICE.

All great reforms that have tended to shake settled beliefs or to upset established methods have had to contend with both prejudice and violent opposition. It has been so in religion, in politics, in banking, in finance, and so it has been in the establishment of the London and Paris Exchange, Limited, an institution founded to give greater and more extended facilities for financial transactions and dealing in and obtaining advances on Stock Exchange securities. The directors wish to congratulate their supporters that, notwithstanding all this opposition, they have succeeded in establishing their enterprise, and they are convinced, from the progressive advancement of their business, that they occupy to-day a high position in public favour. The sound and liberal principles on which the business is conducted justify the belief that future years will witness a continuance of steady and healthy expansion, and bring increased prosperity.

MODERN INVESTMENT.

To-day investment is on very different lines from what it was twenty, or even ten, years ago. The sphere of investment has been considerably broadened, and methods have become greatly diversified.

PROFITABLE INVESTMENTS.

What the investor must do is to make it his business to obtain all necessary information from trustworthy sources. See that your money gives you a fair return, and that it is not locked up in unmarketable securities, where there is practically no chance of appreciation in capital value, and when you wish to realise there is no market to sell on. But, naturally, the investor asks, "How am I to obtain this knowledge? How am I to avoid being drawn into schemes which will mean loss of money to me? How am I to clearly understand the intricacies of money matters and Stock Exchange investments?"

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London and Paris Exchange, Ltd.,
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Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

Please send me gratis and post free your book, entitled "Modern Banking and Investment"

Name .....

Address .....

John Bull Coupon.] .....

AMONG THE BOOKS.

By HERBERT VIVIAN.

"The Standertons." By the Earl of Ellesmere. (London: Heinemann. 1908.)

It is pleasant to see peers preparing for the day when they will have to work. As a novelist, Lord Ellesmere is quite successful in a small way, and he should have no difficulty in earning his bread and butter. His hero is also a peer, a cold-blooded young fellow who disappoints his relations by his lack of interest in the female sex. There seems to be every prospect that his peerage will die out. But he goes off to America, where he meets a girl on a ranch, and finds that she has very much the same ideas as himself about love. So they agree to be married on a more or less platonic basis.

> The bride was neither radiant nor tearful; the groom gave her an admiring glance from time to time, but, as she told him afterwards, behaved very well on the whole.
>
> The only person who seemed to perceive that anything unusual had taken place was John C. Hunter. He looked rather wistfully at his daughter as he said good-bye to her when all non-passengers had to leave the ship.
>
> "God bless you, my dear," he said. "Now I must get back to the West and to work."
>
> "Why not settle up, and come over and have a good time in London?" she asked, smiling.
>
> "No, no; I must make my pile a bit larger for your sake and your children's."
>
> A frown marred the beauty of her face as she replied: "There is no need for you to do that. Please don't set your heart on what will probably never be." And then she went on to herself, but sufficiently loud for at least one person standing by to overhear: "I have no present intention that there shall be any children. I did not marry for that. It was not part of the bargain."

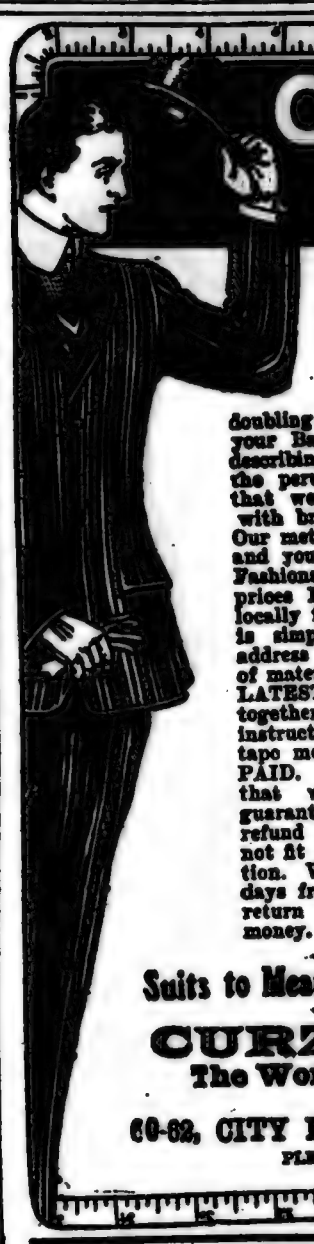
After a while there is an amusing dialogue between the hero's wife and his old aunt.

> "How long have you been married?" was the first question; but Aunt Car did not wait for a reply, and went on: "Quite long enough for you to have given Frank Standerton an heir, and there are no signs of one, so far as I can see."
>
> No one would have doubted, from the way those fierce old eyes of hers looked through and through, that had there been any she would have perceived them.
>
> Eleanor, with an unmoved countenance, rose slowly and began, "I don't see by what right you——" but was cut short by the stern word of command which she could not help obeying:
>
> "Sit down again, my dear, and I will tell you. In the first place, I am the head of the family. In the second, Frank's mother consulted me not long before her death on this very subject. It was Caroline Standerton's, an angel of a woman if ever there was one, dearest wish to dandle a grandson on her knee. That blessing was not vouchsafed to her. But more than this, perhaps you do not know that all Frank's friends kept urging him to do his duty and have an heir. He went to America and married you, but there is no heir. Pray why is this? You are healthy, you are not deformed?"
>
> Eleanor again stood up, and this time she remained standing, ignoring the imperious gestures which directed her to resume her seat.
>
> "Lady Lingfield," she said, "you have asked questions which you cannot have expected me to answer. All I can say is that what you complain of—but I utterly deny your right to complain at all—is not the fault of Lord Standerton."
>
> "Then it is yours, madam, as I suspected."

In the first chapter the hero saves a half-witted girl from a watery grave. She naturally adores him, and, when he finds he does not get on with his wife, he goes off with the other, who presents him with a baby. The wife does not seem to mind much and goes to see the baby. When the girl dies, she adopts it and makes friends with her husband, though we are not told about the appearance of an heir. The story may be a little coarse, but it is certainly clever.

"Captain Spink and other Sea Stories." By Morley Roberts. (London: Nash, 1908. Price 6s.)

Many of these stories are exquisitely comical, and Captain Spink himself is a fascinating character. I only regret that he does not remain with us throughout the book. Mr. Roberts possesses a decided talent for sprightly conversation, and contrives to convey lightning sketches of character with the fewest possible touches of his pen. His snapshot of a couple of Foreign Office clerks is almost a speaking likeness. His stories may be small beer, but, at all events, they are refreshing.



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BULL'S EYES.

Some Unfounded and Confounded Rumours :—
That "Hop Saturday" was *not* a political demonstration.
That Mr. Faber is *not* a "man of letters."
That architects and builders don't like John Burns.
That the new Directoire costumes are not fitting attire.
That *Printers' Pie* is a "case" of dropped "forme."
That umbrellas were supplied free to visitors on the opening day at the Franco-British Exhibition.
That *The Flag* is not a signal success.

"Ballooning as a Summer Sport," reads an *Express* heading. Suitable for the rising generation.

The French courts have decided that there is no copyright in France of "The Merry Widow." They can copy right away.

"The Indian Frontier is a land of lies," says the *Star*. But surely the better land lies, the more it is valued?

"Two in the Dark" a new book is titled. Not light reading.

According to the *Building News*, women are not a success as architects. Yet the sex is far more at home in drawing-rooms?

It is stated that the stalls at the Chemists' Exhibition represented a yearly output of 600,000,000 pills. We can't swallow it.

A Lambeth relieving officer has refused a gratuity in respect of extra services rendered. Truly a *relieving* officer.

"Sleep as long, and especially as often, as you can," says the *British Medical Journal*. We presume the editor practises what he preaches?

While burglars were rifling an automatic piano at a Munich inn, it began playing a popular tune, and caused their arrest. A catching air.

"The Fourth Ship" is the title of a recent book. It should have a good sale.

"Get to think of money as your friend," says a contemporary. But isn't that the quickest way to lose it?

According to Professor J. H. B. Masterman, "at one time women undoubtedly sat and voted in the House of Lords." The qualification nowadays is only one of age.

"How to kill cranks" is the title of an article by Dr. Reich. Is he tired of life?

Mr. Asquith says, "There has been no change in the policy of the Government." So the Opposition may expect to get no change out of it.

Hackenschmidt wants to put off his match with Zbyszco. *Scratch*, if scratch can.

A writer in the *Queen* says: A snowdrop always resembles a young girl who has arrived too early at her first dance. Two lips generally follow.

Several merchants are kicking against the foreign hops.

Some of the Easter eggs contained scent. Nothing new.

A headline :—Easter trips for all purses. Some had very little luggage.

Motor-car burglaries have been common of late. What about the lives that have been taken?

A Heading :—Railway men bent on strike. Will their resolutions be broken?

Some large Easter eggs contained blouses. But ordinary eggs make a good dressing.

Two sows have given birth to forty pigs. Others trying to cut them out will only make a litter.

The petition presented against the Licensing Bill was over six miles long. Doubtless the Government prefer to measure the signatures in roods.

"The New Galatea," just issued, is probably the story of Ken's Kabin.

Madame Calvé is indignant at public curiosity as to her rumoured marrying. "If it is any satisfaction to them, even if I do, they will not lose me as Carmen," she says. So the lady intends to keep Bizet.

"Why are golf grounds called links?"—Because the ball is cuffed from the wrist.

The formula for diamond-making is still enveloped in mystery.

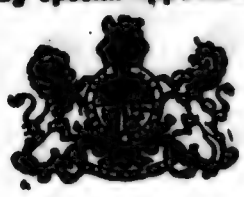
The Pullman motor'-bus is not for males only. It will pull woman as well.

LIPTON'S

Purveyors By Royal Warrant

To His Majesty The King of Spain.

Tea Merchants By Special Appointment



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COOKERY HINTS :—
When roasting a chicken, see that the chimney isn't foul.
Sauce, for saddle-of-mutton, needs a good stir-rup.
Do not take too much port after soup. Your head may turn turtle.
If the cook spoils the sole, tell her to get a new place.

To many aged folk the five-shilling pension will mean the crown of life.

On the Aldgate to Bow tramway, the "Stud" system has been adopted. Will the other lines be linked up?

The "soul-mate" marriage of Mr. Earle and his "affinity" has led to a development in trade in the States. Thus, we hear of "affinity furniture, affinity blouses, affinity cocktails," etc. Probably the first fall to pieces easily, the second can be seen through, and the third cuts off the hentails.

A man charged at Willesden with stealing coal pleaded, "Please, sir, my wife is out of work." But surely there were the children; what were they doing? Poor chap!

A man named A. Burden was charged with being drunk whilst driving a funeral carriage. He explained that his head had a way of rolling from one side to the other. A head like that is decidedly a burden.

A matter of supreme importance is being discussed in a journal devoted to golf, "Does a high tee mean disaster?" It depends upon how the eggs are cooked.

"Darling!" cried the impassioned lover, "I feel as though I were on fire!" Her father came up in the nick of time and put him out.

A contemporary asserts that the Emperor William is "a dexterous carpenter." What of that? Our Own Edward is a great Mason.

THE SCANDAL OF THE 5th LANCERS.

We have received the following letter:—

With reference to your article on the mutiny which took place in "A" Squadron 5th R.I. Lancers during the time when Major Graham commanded it, and your unsuccessful question in the House when the W.O. denied any knowledge of the matter, I referred to a sergeant-major, who was in another squadron of the regiment at that time, showing him your article, which he characterised as true in every particular. He further stated to me that with one exception (not Major Graham) there was not a better officer in the regiment, nor one whom the regiment as a whole had more confidence in, that Captain "Tug" Wilson, but, he added: No 5th Lancer was surprised when Major Graham was promoted to the command that soon afterwards Captain Wilson had to go, as Aldershot even was not big enough to hold them both at once.

I trust that you will follow this matter further, and see that justice is done to Captain Wilson and Colonel Graham, because if this sort of thing is to go on Mr. Haldane may as well shut the shop at once.

JUVIS—THE NEW BEEF TEA.—This new preparation for making beef tea, gravies, soups, etc., also makes an exceedingly good beef tea with a particularly agreeable flavour, which we note the manufacturers claim is obtained by adding vegetable extract to the extract of beef that is used in its production. The manufacturers guarantee that Juvis is made *solely* from beef and vegetable extract. Juvis is sold in fluid form in bottles, and also in 1d. tablets, but in the case of the tablets they are of course incorporated in gelatine, which somewhat adds to the food value. In a recent action it was proved that a 1d. tablet of Juvis makes a cup of strong beef tea, containing double as much nutriment as a cup of beef tea made from the usual meat extracts. This extra value is obtained by adding the vegetable extract to the extract of beef.

PREMIUM BONDS.

Every reader wishing to deal in these securities should compare the *exact Continental daily Bourse quotations* with English equivalent prices, sent free by the British Bank of Commerce, 56-58, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

Almost every firm in England offers these, otherwise perfectly safe securities, at most excessive prices.—[ADVT.]

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by the fear of the weekly big house-cleaning day, is a burden easily removed if housewives will try Li-nola (Catesbys' bordered Cork Lino). This floor covering is now famous all over the world, and popular with women because of its labour-saving qualities. Li-nola instead of needing a beating like Carpet avoids that trouble because it gathers no dust. Instead of requiring scrubbing as oilcloth, Li-nola needs no scrubbing, and it wears better than other floor coverings, even successfully withstanding heavy boot traffic. Moreover there is health to consider, and it is admitted by doctors that through damp floors many fatal illnesses have been contracted. Rheumatic complaints are started by such dampness, and endless misery follows, for it is difficult to eradicate Rheumatic affections once they enter the body. Avoid danger and trouble of that kind by covering the floors of your rooms with

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JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The Editor *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

MR. BOTTOMLEY AND THE LICENSING BILL.—The Publisher will be pleased to forward to any reader sending a penny stamp to cover postage a copy of Mr. Bottomley's speeches upon the First and Second Readings of the Licensing Bill.

WILL THE PRACTICAL JOKERS who send in covers with "faked" numbers please cease the practice? Otherwise, we are afraid we shall have to take serious notice of the matter.

JOHN BULL POSTCARDS.—We have now received from our printers a new supply of very artistic Picture Postcards, and shall be pleased to forward some to any reader on receipt of stamped addressed envelope (large enough to take an ordinary-sized postcard).

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

J. W. R. (Wolverhampton) and others chaff us for speaking of Nelson holding out "the right hand of fellowship." Figures of speech, however, must not be construed literally.

Several Readers have called our attention to a printer's slip in our recent article "Mr. Lloyd George on the Hop." In alluding to the last annual brewing returns we were made to say that they showed "that nearly 64,000,000lbs. of hops were consumed in brewing against just over 295,000 lbs. of other substitutes." This, of course, should have read "just over 29,500 lbs." the actual amount of hop-substitutes being 29,502 lbs. We have also to thank our contemporary the *Brewers' Journal* for directing our attention to the matter.

D. McC. (Stirling).—Read our editor's two speeches on the Licensing Bill.

A. J. H. (London).—We had already noted the result of the appeal. We have made strong representations to Mr. Burns, but he says he is powerless to intervene.

H. J. C. (Gateshead-on-Tyne), B. M.P. (Westcliff-on-Sea) and others.—You will see that the Public Prosecutor is looking into the matter of Arnold and Butler.

A. A. B. (Trieste).—We are journalists—not timber merchants.

A. O. (Clacton-on-Sea) wants a biscuit for Mr. G. D. Faber, M.P., for challenging Mr. Whiteley to prove that certain "facts" are false. We almost think the hon. member deserves one.

F. B. (Ashby-de-la-Zouch) and others.—You are too smart. The reference to the *late* Mr. Morley was intentional. He has ceased to exist. Nor is it very incorrect to speak of a bachelor's "family."

V. L. K. (West Kensington Park) complains about the New York Portrait Company (97, Edgware Road), which sends out female canvassers to solicit orders for photographic enlargements and male canvassers to collect money for frames. If undue pressure is used to obtain money in the absence of the male members of the family, the assistance of the police should be invoked.

W. C. M. (Newmarket) is very angry with motorists for using the roads, as he thinks, to the danger of the public. There are, however, two sides to every question—and to most roads.

"A Regular Subscriber" (Kingsland).—It seems absurd that the firemen should lose their wages for not waiting to don uniforms when immediate action was urgent.

G. W. (Everton) asks an old question. If he buys an article for 10s. and sells it for 20s., his profit is 100 per cent., and a very good profit too, in these hard times.

R. E. G. (Middlesborough) sends us an examination paper on English composition, but the passage to which he takes exception was intended to be criticised.

J. H. (Tipton).—We are glad to hear that you devour us, and hope you swallow everything we say.

F. W. M. (Leamington Spa).—It is hopeless for us to try to comment upon cases which are only reported briefly in the papers.

A. P. (Grays).—A hall 3¼ft. long certainly sounds rather tight.

W. S. (Erdington) and R. J. (Gateshead).—We cannot follow all the vagaries of the paper you mention.

A. R. M. (Edinburgh).—We cannot say whether J. and H. Lindsay (18, South St. Andrew Street, Edinburgh) can be depended upon by intending emigrants to Canada.

D. B. (Aberdeen).—The people you inquire about run a bucket-shop of the ordinary type. We certainly cannot give a biscuit to a newspaper for confusing Aberdeenshire with Kincardineshire. Where are they?

B. C. W. (Sutton).—If Rayner is mad, he certainly ought to be transferred to a criminal lunatic asylum.

J. R. (Highbury New Park) sends us a letter he has received from the liquidator of the Golden Grain Bread Company, saying that there will probably be nothing for the creditors or shareholders of that company—which goes against the grain.

C. G. (Forest Hill).—The Bonanza Watch Company (1A, Paradise Road, Stockwell, S.W.) sounds like one of the hoary old swindles under another name.

"No Humbug" (Penarth) has not the courage to supply us with his name, but is kind enough to express a hope that either Mr. Dahle "or some of his female relations may be scragged well-nigh unto death." What nice people anonymous letter-writers are, to be sure!

Private H. J. W. (Colchester) writes a forcible letter in defence of the cat. His argument is that it is impossible to "degrade" brutes who beat women, outrage children, and live on vice. Prison has no terrors for them. We are not sure that we disagree, but Mr. Dahle is, of course, entitled to his own opinions.

"Home Ruler" (Liverpool).—"T. G. Carroll's Housing Scheme" sounds a catchpenny affair, and we are sorry you wasted sixpence on the prospectus.

"Romo" (Wandsworth).—We regard a patent cure for cancer with considerable suspicion and should advise you not to be in a hurry to send 15s. 1d. for three months' treatment. What is the penny for? Luck?

T. H. B. (Bournemouth).—It is certainly news to us that Oliver Cromwell used a rifle, and that "in revolver practice also his aim was deadly." But the *Daily Mail* is notoriously imaginative.

C. W. N. (Newport) wants the addresses of dealers in "publishers' remainders" and second-hand books publishing catalogues. Perhaps some other reader can oblige. We have had pleasure in sending him copies of the indices to Vols. II. and III.

W. R. (Nottingham).—We are not in a position to give any first-hand evidence as to the merits of Dr. Van Vleck's treatment.

H. N. (Colne) writes in praise of the Page-Davis Advertising School. We always like to give both sides of the question.

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These facts have been gathered from that excellent book, "Profitable Banking Accounts," written by a bank manager, and fully describing the splendid profit-making advantages given by Feltham's Bank. If you are interested, and will write to the Manager, Feltham's Bank, Limited, 96, Victoria Street, London, S.W., or 2, Coleman Street, London, E.C., a copy of this most valuable illustrated book—valuable to all who want to make money and to save at a profit—will be sent to you, as a reader of JOHN BULL, post free, and free also of any charge whatever.—ADVT.

M. G. (Caledonian Road) says he sends us a joke, but after very diligent search we must confess that we have been unable to find it.

H. D. J. (Nottingham).—Why not write straight to Messrs. Cassell, who, at any rate, are above suspicion? They will be able to tell you if they authorised Messrs. James K. King and Son, of Albert Street, Manchester, to act for them. If they did not, then write to us again.

A. P. (Herne Hill) wants a biscuit for a paper which gave a picture of Juliet with six fingers. But how do we know how many fingers Juliet had? How many claws had Shylock?

W. P. (West Norwood).—We entirely agree with you that private individuals who go to law ought to have some safeguard against their private affairs being made public by sensational newspapers for their own benefit. Why should private affairs minister to public curiosity? We beg to give notice of a Bill dealing with the subject.

K. J. C. (Old Charlton).—The Goldwares Electro Company, 23, Australian Avenue, London, E.C., have been already exposed by one or more papers.

W. C. S. (Bournville).—We are glad that you are satisfied with the efforts which you think you inspired. Good-morning!

J. M. (Plumstead) draws our attention to the Acoustic Patents, Ltd. (20, Bucklersbury, London, E.C., and 119, Victoria Street, London, S.W.), and tells us that a friend of his paid ten guineas for one of these instruments, although an ordinary 7s. 6d. house-telephone would be quite as effective if attached to a small pocket battery. As the instrument is useful to deaf people, it would be a good thing if it could be sold at a reasonable price. The people who charge £10 10s. have already been exposed in *Truth*.

K. C. P. (Hoxton) does not think much of people who allow their misfortunes to be related under the heading of "Human Documents." He thinks it is no good distributing food among the unemployed, and asks "What about the good, kind, Christian landlord?" For his part, our correspondent does not intend to "suffer in silence and secrecy" very much longer. We hope that by this time the tide may have turned and that the outlook is rosier.

M. C. (Chester).—You can scarcely expect us to solve the housing problem in our Letter Bag, but the Government seems to be trying to do something in the matter.

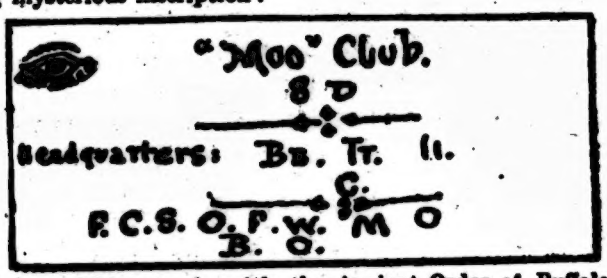
E. P. (Ramsgate) congratulates us on our independence, and urges us to keep our feet warm. This sounds rather like an incitement to violence, but we are grateful for the thoughtful suggestion.

A. M. E. (East Grinstead).—No doubt it is annoying to be invaded by idle sightseers after a fire, so you must make allowances.

M. E. (Birmingham) wants a biscuit for a wine merchant who advertised brandy under the heading "Wines," but he must try to find us something better than that.

H. A. (Northampton).—What makes you think there is a coal-mine at the bottom of the pit at Drury Lane? We must have more precise information before making up our minds to float a company.

O. J. S. O. (Merthyr Tydfil) found a card in a railway carriage and wants to know what it means. It has the picture of an eye in the corner and the following mysterious inscription:



Can it have anything to do with the Ancient Order of Buffaloes? Or is O. J. S. O. pulling our leg? We don't like that eye in the corner.

H. R. G. G. (Wimbledon) sends us a long and interesting letter about the housing question. We wish we had space at our disposal to house his communication.

"INQUISITIVE" (Bristol).—Not a very serious blunder after all. But we agree with you that printers are the devil.

F. B. (Sheffield).—You did not mark the scrap of paper you so kindly sent us.

"70,000 SPINDLES" (Burnage) says that the article about the half-timer in our issue of May 2nd "is written by a downright sensible woman." He says "the mill-hands are quite old enough and capable enough to look after their work and to do it, as well as save money and enjoy a good yearly holiday."

H. K. reminds us that, after holidays, most places of business have a difficulty in getting the men back to work, and he thinks it hard that delinquents should be punished by suspension from employment. But surely punctuality is important in business.

"SLIDE RULE."—We cannot notice charges against institutions when they are brought by correspondents who do not favour us with their names and addresses.

J. A. C. (Bristol) says we "*cannot* refuse a biscuit" for a cutting which he sends us. We not only can, but do.

C. H. (Bury St. Edmunds) wants Jim Crow to write about quack medicines, but we must think of our advertisers.

R. H. (Craven Arms).—What had you had for supper when you sat down to write us that delirious letter?

W. R. (West Croydon) tells us about a servant who "had a cheap gold ring pressed upon her by a representative of the London and Provincial Stores (44, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.), apparently on approval, and now they refuse to accept it back, demanding 18s. by instalments for an article she does not want and which is only worth 7s. 6d." Of course it depends on what she signed, but we should advise resistance of the claim all the same.

"BLOKE," F. G. (Cardiff), E. G. O. (Holyhead), W. W. H. (Bristol), "WAGES" (Walworth), C. B. (Laurence Pountney Hill), W. T. (Capetown), E. B. (Dundee), S. D. (Aberdeen), T. G. E. (Finsbury Park), T. L. B. (Bexhill), A. E. W. (Southend-on-Sea), B. F. (Hitchin), "WINSLOW," C. B. (Southend-on-Sea), "HIGHLY AMUSED," H. E. W. (Chester), S. B. R. (Leyton), E. M. (Birkenhead), W. A. G. (Walthamstow), H. F. H. (Highbury), R. T. (Barry Dock), T. R. R. (Westbourne Grove), A. H. H. (Old Charlton), "OTTER," J. R. G. (Brighton), H. McG. (near Liverpool), E. M. D. (Acton), I. T. (South Tottenham), Mrs. E. F., Ll. A. J. (Birkenhead), G. F. B. (Leeds), A. P. M. (Brighton), K. S. D. (Dundee), C. A. W. (Hinckley), "CONSTANT READER" (Manchester), E. G. P. (Leyton), F. W. T. (Boscombe), J. W. (Dumbarton), "GLUE POT" (Westcliff-on-Sea), G. L. (Ilford), "MAC" (Inverness), and R. N. C. (Bristol).—Always glad to hear from you.

(*We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.*)

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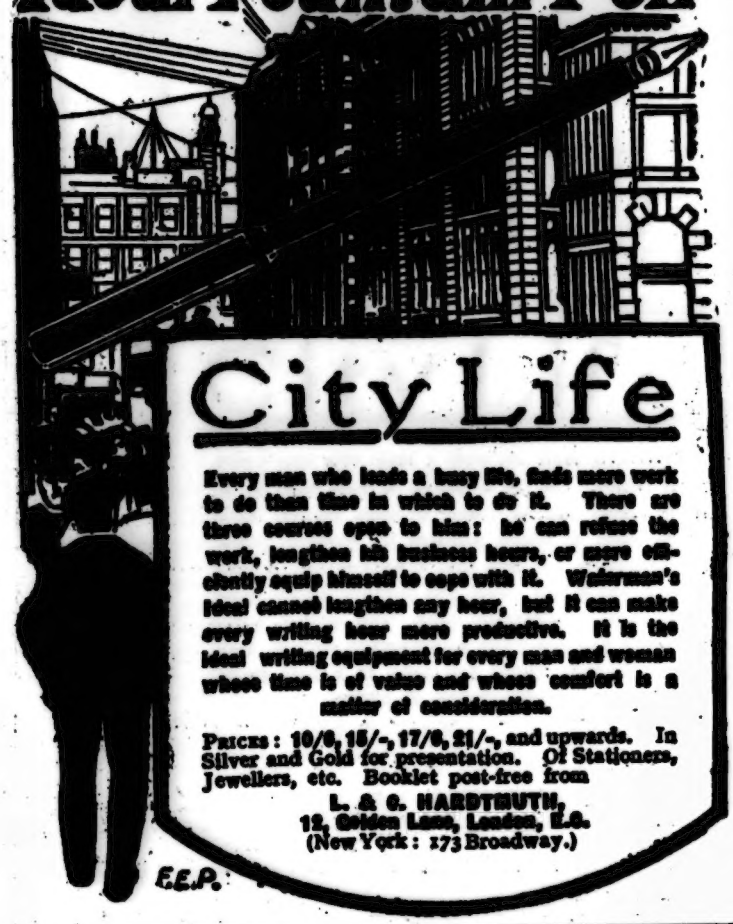

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RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.
("Larry Lynx" of "The People," and "Magpie" of "The Globe.")

The Bugbear of Backers.

When horses claim multiple engagements at a meeting which is so usual, the first day's sport must necessarily influence the subsequent results.

Sound Reasoning.

The way we object to back certain horses who are invariably disappointments is by expressing it that they are "too long doing it"—*a la* Longcroft.

The Horses Realise It.

The gradient in the five furlong flat course at Sandown is no less than 1 in 28, and from the bottom turn to the winning post it is even steeper.

No Odd Afternoons.

Canadian legislation is shortly to be altered so as to limit race meetings to fifteen days. At present it is not unusual for a fixture to continue for a month!

Disliked Generally.

Race executives are not compelled to have four-furlong races, but they *may* do so. The events, however, are gradually dying out, several race meetings now refusing to promote them.

Another Loss to the Turf.

Congratulations are due to Mr. R. J. K. Mott, who was formerly in the Queen's Regiment, from which he retired after the war, on his marriage recently. In consequence, I believe, he is renouncing training—at which he has been fairly successful, having regard to his being an amateur—and joining the turf mainly for sport's sake. He is, however, I understand, retaining the stud farm at Ampthill, in which I hope he will have deserved good luck, even better than his recent successes in sending out winners like Ampthill and Best China, by breeding another such as Offer to carry the pretty coffee-coloured jacket.

Prophetic.

With the Spring Handicaps now all run through, there must be a lull prior to Derby week and the Whitsuntide meetings. To-day (Thursday), at Newmarket, I think ZANCIG, who will be at a long price, is worth a little each way in the Three-year-old Handicap, for he stays well, will be well ridden, and could not have less weight. Another likely winner in the very *near* future, either at Haydock Park on Saturday, or probably at Windsor next week, is

QUIXOTIC,

who ought to have scored at Chester, and as we have seen since, Click Clack, who beat him, is better than is believed. Gatwick has a very poor card, but SOLAR SYSTEM, who is useful and stays, may win the sprint. On Saturday there will not be many runners for the Spring Handicap, which

DETECTION

ought to take. Next week the Great Northern Handicap at York must be influenced by what occurs at Newmarket while these notes are in the press. Hanover Square, for instance, has a big chance if he is not penalised or too badly disgraced at headquarters, but I think the safest policy so many days ahead is to vote for

PRECENTOR

to be backed EACH WAY, for this is the galloping course he needs, and Precentor, if unlucky hitherto, is a good horse.

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